

From: Public Policy Law360
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 4:34 AM
To: Rep93
Subject: Trump's 2018 Deregulatory Push Targets CPP, Fracking Rule



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Friday, December 15, 2017

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TOP STORIES

Trump's 2018 Deregulatory Push Targets CPP, Fracking Rule

Final coffin nails for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan and the Bureau of Land Management's hydraulic fracturing rule are just two of the energy-related deregulatory actions the Trump administration is planning to take in 2018, the White House said on Thursday. [Read more »](#)

Final Tax Bill To Allow State Income, Sales Tax Deductions

The final tax cut bill speeding through Congress will allow a deduction for state and local property taxes as well as income or sales taxes while maintaining a \$10,000 cap proposed in earlier versions, according to a Thursday announcement from House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas. [Read more »](#)



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LAW FIRMS

Akin Gump

Allen & Overy

Senate Panel Advances USPTO Head, US Attorneys

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved President Donald Trump's pick to head the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on a voice vote Thursday, along with nominees for five U.S. attorney positions. [Read more »](#)

Fla. High Court Won't Rule On Gov.'s Plan To Name 3 Justices

The Florida Supreme Court said Thursday that it would not decide on whether Gov. Rick Scott can appoint the next three Supreme Court justices on his final day in office because the governor has not yet acted on his stated plan. [Read more »](#)

Net Neutrality Reversal Draws Intense Criticism, And Praise

When the Federal Communications Commission voted Thursday afternoon to undo Obama-era regulations that guaranteed equal treatment to all online content, it incited a firestorm of criticism from consumer advocates but triggered profuse praise from industry-aligned groups. [Read more »](#)

Analysis

The WTO May Have Reached Its Breaking Point

The World Trade Organization has struggled to get ambitious negotiations off the ground for years, but experts say this week's failure to deliver any concrete results at its ministerial summit could mark a breaking point for the WTO as we know it. [Read more »](#)

BANKING & SECURITIES

House OKs Bill Loosening Bank Privacy Disclosure Rules

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill Thursday that would loosen current requirements for banks to notify their customers of personal information policies, claiming the bill would reduce duplicative

Alston & Bird
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer
Baker McKenzie
Ballard Spahr
Barnes & Thornburg
Bryan Cave
Cadwalader Wickersham
Carlton Fields
Cleary Gottlieb
Clifford Chance
Covington & Burling
Cozen O'Connor
Cravath Swaine
Crowell & Moring
DLA Piper
Davis Polk
DeHay & Elliston
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dechert
Dentons
Drinker Biddle
Freshfields
Fried Frank
Gibson Dunn
Goldstein & Russell
Gunster
Gupta Wessler
Hogan Lovells
Holland & Knight
Hoover Slovacek
Hughes Socol
Hunton & Williams
Irell & Manella
Kasowitz Benson
Keker Van Nest & Peters
Kennedys CMK
King & Spalding
Lankler Siffert

regulation despite concerns for abuse of the information. [Read more »](#)

Chinese Consumer Lender Slashes IPO Amid Crackdown

A Chinese online microlender that initially filed for a \$500 million U.S. initial public offering has slashed its fundraising estimate by more than three-quarters, a reduction that coincides with a regulatory crackdown by Chinese authorities on online lenders. [Read more »](#)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

Senate Confirms Trump's EPA GC, Water Chief Picks

The U.S. Senate on Thursday confirmed Matthew Leopold of Carlton Fields as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's general counsel, and Wisconsin Assistant Attorney General David Ross as the EPA's water office chief. [Read more »](#)

Trump's EPA Chemical Safety Office Pick Drops Out

President Donald Trump's controversial pick to lead the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's chemical safety office has reportedly given up on seeking the post, just weeks after two Republican senators said they couldn't support his nomination and a third expressed doubts as well. [Read more »](#)

EPA Invites Local Groups To Discuss Updates To Lead Rules

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday sent a letter inviting local organizations to weigh in on an effort to revise rules aimed at keeping lead out of drinking water, saying the dialogue was part of the Trump administration's efforts to engage with local stakeholders. [Read more »](#)

Enviro Group Wants Trump Admin.'s Monuments Docs

Law Offices of Stewart and Stewart
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

LeClairRyan

Linklaters

McKool Smith

Milbank Tweed

Miller Starr

Miner Barnhill

Mintz Levin

Morgan Lewis

Morrison & Foerster

Norris McLaughlin

O'Connell & Aronowitz

O'Melveny & Myers

Orrick Herrington

Paul Weiss

Pillsbury Winthrop

Proskauer Rose

Ropes & Gray

Schulte Roth

Sedgwick LLP

Seyfarth Shaw

Shearman & Sterling

Simpson Thacher

Skadden

Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Stoel Rives

Susman Godfrey

Van Ness Feldman

Weil Gotshal

Wilkinson Walsh

Williams Kastner

Williams Montgomery

Willkie Farr

WilmerHale

Winston & Strawn

COMPANIES

The Conservation Lands Foundation Inc. expanded the fight over President Donald Trump's decision to shrink national monuments in Utah with a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in D.C. federal court Wednesday, seeking documents to shed light on the move beyond the "sweeping generalizations" already made. [Read more »](#)

Bearded Seal 'Threatened' Listing Improper, Justices Hear

Oil and gas groups, the state of Alaska and an Alaska Native regional corporation urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday to reject the federal government's plea to uphold the National Marine Fisheries Service's decision to list the Pacific bearded seal as a threatened species. [Read more »](#)

IP & TECHNOLOGY

Startups Need Education On CFIUS Triggers, House Panel Told

The government must work to educate tech startups on potential national security and Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States oversight issues raised by early stage investments from foreign companies, a former high-ranking Treasury Department official now with WilmerHale told the House Financial Services Committee on Thursday. [Read more »](#)

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

FCC Kickstarts Review Of National TV Audience Cap

The Federal Communications Commission on Thursday teed up a further review of its media ownership regulations, voting to move forward with a comment process taking aim at its nationwide television audience cap. [Read more »](#)

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

21st Century Fox Inc.
Alaska Oil and Gas Association
American Cable Association
American Petroleum Institute Inc.
Amgen Inc.
Arctic Slope Regional Corp.
Association of Corporate Counsel
CTIA
Cable News Network Inc.
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
China Agritech Inc.
Competitive Power Ventures Holdings LLC
Council on Foreign Relations
DISH Network Corporation
Deloitte Touche
Environmental Defense Fund Inc.
Flex Ltd.
Hitachi Ltd.
Imerys SA
LM Ericsson Telephone Company
Matrix Partners LP
Microsoft Corporation
NASDAQ OMX Group Inc.
NBCUniversal Inc.
NEC Corp.
NJ Transit Corp.
National Conference of State Legislatures
Netflix Inc.
New York Times Co.
Norwegian Cruise Line
Panasonic Corporation
Procter & Gamble Co.
Public Broadcasting Service
Renaissance Capital
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.
The Boeing Company

NY, NJ Pledge \$5.55B Toward 'Urgent' Commuter Tunnel Rehab

New York and New Jersey have pledged \$5.55 billion for the construction of two new commuter rail tunnels under the Hudson River, an infrastructure project New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said Thursday is "urgent" and critical to public safety and the economy. [Read more »](#)

EMPLOYMENT

NLRB Overturns Employee Handbook Standard

The National Labor Relations Board overturned its 2004 Lutheran Heritage Village-Livonia standard for weighing the legality of employee handbook policies in a 3-2 decision Thursday, with the Republican majority saying the board should balance a given rule's impact on workers' rights and the employer's reasons for maintaining it going forward. [Read more »](#)

NLRB Ditches Browning-Ferris Joint Employer Test

A divided National Labor Relations Board on Thursday erased the landmark expansion of its test for determining joint employment that it had issued in the 2015 Browning-Ferris Industries case, voting along party lines to revert back to its previous standard. [Read more »](#)

COMPETITION

DOJ Antitrust Official Wary Of Regulatory Approach To Data

A top U.S. Department of Justice antitrust official voiced skepticism Thursday of calls to force companies to share their data, but conceded that in "narrow circumstances," it may be appropriate to bring a challenge over a company's refusal to deal with its competitors. [Read more »](#)

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
The Walt Disney Company
Toshiba
Tribune Media Co.
Twitter Inc.
Washington Post Co.
YouTube Inc.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Alaska Department of Law
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
California Natural Resources Agency
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Cherokee Nation
Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Reserve System
Federal Trade Commission
Food and Drug Administration
Internal Revenue Service
National Labor Relations Board
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
National Transportation Safety Board

PRIVACY & CYBERSECURITY

Feds Should Ask Firms, Not Cloud Service, For Data: DOJ

The U.S. Department of Justice has advised prosecutors seeking consumer data stored on the cloud to request the information from underlying businesses rather than their third-party data storage providers, in a shift that Microsoft Corp., which has been sparring with the government over online privacy rights, hailed as a positive step. [Read more »](#)

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Analysis

Judge Could Reach Split Ruling On CFPB Leadership

A chief complaint about President Donald Trump's appointment of a White House staffer to lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is that it erodes the agency's independence, but experts say a judge could reassert that independence even as he upholds the president's right to fill that post. [Read more »](#)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Ex-Cuomo Aide Pleads Not Guilty In Bribery Case

A former aide of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and three others pled not guilty on Wednesday to an expanded indictment tied to alleged bribes for higher education and energy projects, ahead of a trial set for January. [Read more »](#)

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE

Armed Services Chair Backs Temporary Funding Bill

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, urged colleagues Wednesday to pass a contentious bill to fully

New York Attorney General's Office

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

Securities and Exchange Commission

U.S. Army

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

U.S. Senate

U.S. Supreme Court

United Nations

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

World Trade Organization

fund the military through fiscal 2018 and renew a children's health care program while only temporarily extending other federal spending, saying defense funding should not be used as a "political football." [Read more »](#)

Analysis

Expanded Drone Registry To Spark More Enforcement Action

A legislative fix signed into law by President Donald Trump on Tuesday reinstated a mandate for recreational drone users to register with the federal government, a move that experts say paves the way for more enforcement actions related to privacy, safety and national security. [Read more »](#)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Maker Of Plastic Car Parts Seeks CIT Review Of Tariffs

Certus Automotive Inc. has filed a complaint in the U.S. Court of International Trade seeking review of the tariffs imposed on some of the interior and exterior plastic auto parts it imports, after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection denied Certus' request for agency review. [Read more »](#)

TAX

Wis. Sen. Blesses Tax Bill Changes, Yet Some In GOP Waver

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., who negotiated a key provision for pass-through businesses in the final version of the Senate's \$1.4 trillion tax cut bill, on Thursday endorsed a further change that is being floated to give such businesses a 20 percent tax deduction, though not all Republicans are yet in full support of the bill. [Read more »](#)

Prop. Taxes Higher In Poor Chicago Neighborhoods, Suit Says

A pair of Chicago neighborhood advocacy organizations sued the Cook County assessor in Illinois state court Thursday in the wake of reports that the county's property tax policy has overcharged lower-income residents while handing the richest residents a discount. [Read more »](#)

IMMIGRATION

Trump To Appeal Ruling Blocking 'Sanctuary Cities' Order

The Trump administration is appealing to the Ninth Circuit a California federal judge's decision blocking enforcement of an executive order to withhold federal funds from so-called sanctuary cities, according to court documents filed on Thursday. [Read more »](#)

USCIS Ends Temporary Protected Status For Nicaraguans

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is ending a 20-year temporary protected status program for Nicaraguans effective in January 2019, according to a notice issued Thursday in the Federal Register. [Read more »](#)

Woman Says Husband's Visa Delayed Because He's Pakistani

A U.S. citizen seeking a visa for her Pakistan-born spouse sued the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday, claiming the agency has intentionally delayed issuing final approval for his visa application because he is from a predominantly Muslim country. [Read more »](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN

Cherokee Must Wait On Final Freedmen Citizenship Order

The Cherokee Nation is eager to fully grant citizenship to descendants of slaves owned by tribal members, but they'll have to wait a little longer after a D.C. federal judge said Thursday that more briefing was required before closing

out a mandate first issued in August. Read more »

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FCC Overturns Net Neutrality Rules

As anticipated, the Federal Communications Commission voted Thursday to overturn Obama-era net neutrality rules mandating that internet service providers treat all online content equally, handing industry groups a win and offering ISPs leeway to try out "fast" and "slow" lanes for web traffic. Read more »

NY, Mass., Wash. To Sue Over Net Neutrality Rollback

Attorneys general in Massachusetts, New York and Washington state on Thursday announced their intentions to sue the Federal Communications Commission after it moved to undo regulations that protected net neutrality. Read more »

WHITE COLLAR

Atty Wants Political Contributions Nixed From Bribery Suit

The Norris McLaughlin & Marcus PA attorney facing charges over an alleged pay-to-play scheme in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday moved to exclude most of the campaign contributions he made to Democratic Mayor Ed Pawlowski, a day after an alleged co-conspirator copped a guilty plea. Read more »

PEOPLE

Senate Confirms Gibson Dunn Vet For 5th Circ.

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP partner James C. Ho is heading to the Fifth Circuit after a Senate vote Thursday confirmed him to the post as President Donald Trump's 12th appellate judge confirmed this year. Read more »

EXPERT ANALYSIS

Opinion

Time To Root Out Political Interference With The DOJ

Congress and indeed the Justice Department itself have the tools to investigate political interference with our nation's law enforcement and protect the DOJ from abuse. It's time to use them, says Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I. [Read more »](#)

Litigation Trend Links Climate Change And Human Rights

One key takeaway from the Bonn Climate Talks — which recently brought together negotiators from close to 200 countries to discuss implementation of the Paris agreement — is that energy companies must seriously consider potential lawsuits linking their business operations with human rights violations and climate change, say Viren Mascarenhas and Kayla Winarsky Green of King & Spalding LLP. [Read more »](#)

Cosmetic Companies Must Plan For New Regulation

U.S. senators on both sides of the aisle have proposed cosmetic reform bills, making it likely that Congress will soon pass legislation regulating personal care products. This, in turn, is likely to result in greater litigation against companies making those products, say attorneys at Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC. [Read more »](#)

Reviewing 2017's CEQA Legislative And Regulatory Activity

As another year draws near its close, a number of notable California Environmental Quality Act developments in both the legislative and regulatory arenas bear mention, including one proposed regulation that is already outdated due to its conflict with a

recent Fifth District decision, says Arthur Coon of Miller Starr Regalia. [Read more »](#)

LEGAL INDUSTRY

9th Circ. Chief Launches Kozinski Sex Misconduct Inquiry

The chief judge of the Ninth Circuit on Thursday ordered a judicial misconduct inquiry into U.S. Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski over media reports the judge showed female clerks pornography and committed other acts of sexual misconduct. [Read more »](#)

Arnold & Porter To Award Cravath-Scale Associate Bonuses

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP on Wednesday became the latest firm to fall in line with the growing roster of BigLaw firms to offer year-end associate bonuses that align with the scale established by Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP. [Read more »](#)

Firm Consolidation Isn't Going To Slow Down In 2018

The legal industry will see limited growth in demand and increasing consolidation in 2018 as firms face mounting pressures both on pricing and costs, and middle-tier firms in particular will feel the squeeze, according to a report released on Thursday. [Read more »](#)

Tanenbaum Keale Goes West With Ex-Sedgwick Attys

Litigation boutique Tanenbaum Keale LLP, which was started this year by a group of veteran Sedgwick LLP partners, announced Thursday that it would expand westward, opening a Seattle office to be led by a product liability partner and former colleague from the soon-to-be-shuttered firm. [Read more »](#)

Law360's Weekly Verdict: Legal Lions & Lambs

Attorneys at Cravath Swaine & Moore topped this week's legal lions list after guiding Disney's

newly inked \$52 billion deal to buy 21st Century Fox's film and television assets, while a team of DLA Piper attorneys landed on the legal lambs list after misconduct got them thrown out of Dish Network's trademark suit against a DirecTV retailer. [Read more »](#)

Why Information Governance Is More Important Than Ever

It used to be that hiring a good law firm was the single most important thing a company could do when facing litigation. You could now make the case that an organization's most powerful asset in prosecuting or defending a claim is its information, says Linda Sharp, associate general counsel of ZL Technologies and chair of the ACC Information Governance Committee. [Read more »](#)

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From: American Bail Coalition
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Rep93
CC: jclayton@americanbail.org
Subject: Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board on Bail Reform

 Outlook

Dear Representative Smith,

As government stewards, elected officials, and stakeholders in the safety of the citizens of Ohio, I write to you today concerning the ongoing misinformation regarding bail reform.

You may have recently been given a copy of a report from the Buckeye Institute, entitled **"Money Bail" Making Ohio A More Dangerous Place to Live**. This report contains so many errors and incomplete information that, frankly, it should be discarded. Yet, we wanted to take an opportunity to counter some of the claims made in the report and set the bail reform debate into the proper context.

First, "money bail" is not making Ohio a more dangerous place to live. The bail system in Ohio is essentially the same one being run since statehood. The right to bail is enshrined in the Ohio constitution, and Judges have discretion to set the "type, amount, and conditions" of bail. This is also why 69% of judges in a recent National Judicial College Survey did not agree with the elimination of money bail from the system.

Second, what does the Buckeye Institute's new bail utopia cost? New Jersey's program, given as an example, will run out of money on July 1, 2018 unless the legislature completely overhauls the funding of that program. The costs to implement such a program were in excess of \$1 billion in California. Added to that, not only are there not savings, as both Administrative Judge Glenn Grant in New Jersey and the California Chief Justice concur, the costs of shifting away from monetary bail to risk assessments and supervision will largely not materialize and the cost the State and Counties millions of dollars.

Third, the litany of examples cited by the report as horrifying cases where someone was able to post bail begs the question as to what the Buckeye Institute would do with such cases. Yet, the Ohio Constitution already covers

this, giving the power to prosecutors to prove the danger or risk of flight and deny bail. The report suggests that somehow a risk assessment will fix the problem, yet the results of the assessment do not relieve a prosecutor of having to put up the proof necessary to achieve the result.

The report argues that several jurisdictions are seeing tremendous results due to bail reform, but this relies on the results generated by a private foundation that provides a free proprietary risk assessment tool and does its own evaluation of the results. It should come as no surprise that they think it works. **Instead, in sworn testimony, a national expert testified in federal court that the Lucas County, Ohio program has very high failure rates, including 47% of high risk cases. As a result of that testimony, the attorneys in the case concluded that Lucas County, Ohio had created a culture of "non-accountability" in its bail system.**

In San Francisco, the report issued there found that 27% of defendants did not show up under the risk assessment model. In New Jersey, the state has failed to release any numbers, and the report's citation to crime figures does not prove that bail reform has anything to do with that since New Jersey's prison population has declined every year for 15 years - and the population had been declining by double digits leading up to bail reform. Of course, New Jersey's algorithm is releasing prior felons in possession of firearms, counting them as low risk, similar to what is going on in New Mexico.

Risk assessments are indeed not a magic bullet, and there have been serious criticisms lodged against them which the Buckeye Institute report completely ignores. Researchers at New York University concluded: **"The use of such systems by public agencies raises serious due process concerns, and at a minimum they should be available for public auditing, testing, and review, and subject to accountability standards."** Former US Attorney General Eric Holder has also cautioned jurisdictions who using risk assessments saying they "may exacerbate unwarranted and unjust disparities that are already far too common in our criminal justice system and in our society." Several additional recent studies and experts have called into question the race and gender neutrality of such algorithms, and the jury is certainly still out on that question. Indeed the utter lack of transparency of such algorithms is of serious concern.

The Buckeye Institute decides to then demean the bail industry for helping persons exercise their right to bail in Ohio and provide accountability to the Courts. The report cites no statistics on the effectiveness of surety bail in Ohio. That's not to say that adjustments cannot be made, but national data as well as data in Ohio back up the fact that private bail is effective and efficient because it is typically a third-party benefit provided to the State and a defendant at no cost to the State.

Sadly, the Buckeye Institute has sunk to the level of citing newspaper articles as some proof of the key points it makes. It does such surface-level analysis that clearly the conclusion informed the selection of the "research"

that is cited. For example, the fact that 57% of persons in jail are awaiting trial tells us nothing—how many of those persons are on a non-monetary hold? Or, what is their prior criminal history, and what would the risk assessment say about them based thereon? How many are there because their attorneys are advising them to take a time-served deal?

The Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board with its assessment of bail reform. Moving away from "money bail" has not proven to deliver on its promises. While adjustments to the system can always be made, putting our blind faith in "black-box" algorithms to fix the problem is not only unproven, it is simply naïve.

Sincerely,

Jeff Clayton
Executive Director
American Bail Coalition
(877) 958-6628

From: Susan Carleson

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 9:30 AM

To: Rep93

Subject: ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin: ACRU hosts voting policy and legislative seminar at ALEC

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**The American
Civil Rights Union**



**Voting
Integrity
Institute**

The ACRU hosted a voting integrity policy and legislative seminar at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) winter conference. More details found at the [ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin](#).

LEAD

ACRU Focus: Legislators Not Shy in Pushing 'Model' Bills

At the behest of the American Civil Rights Union, legislators across the nation who belong to the American Legislative Exchange Council could be sponsoring bills in the next couple of years requiring local election commissions to take a closer look at people who miss jury duty. "All we want is honest voting," says Susan Carleson, chairman and CEO of the American Civil Rights Union, which put on a voter integrity

seminar during the ALEC 2017 States & Nation Policy Summit held at Nashville's Omni Hotel.

STATES

Florida: Experts: Broward's elections chief broke law in destroying ballots

The election supervisor in Florida's second-most populous county broke the law by destroying ballots cast in last year's congressional primary.

North Carolina: 12 indicted in Alamance County for voting as felons

Police in North Carolina are seeking people accused of voting in the 2016 general election while still on felony probation or post-release supervision. A grand jury had indicted 12 people for violating state election laws.

New York: Developers Sentenced To Prison for Voter Fraud

A federal judge sentenced a developer to ten months in prison, a year of supervised release, 400 hours of community service and a \$20,000 fine, for the fraudulent registration of voters.

Wisconsin: After Report, GOP leaders of Legislature Calling for Ethics and Elections Leaders to resign

The fate of Wisconsin's Elections and Ethics commission administrators may come down to a highly unusual and dramatic vote in the state Senate. Senate Majority

Leader Scott Fitzgerald says if they don't resign, he will schedule a vote next month to reject their confirmation.

West Virginia: New voter ID law coming to the Mountain State

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A new voter ID law will soon be going into effect in West Virginia. Beginning January 1, the state's new voter ID law will be going into effect.

REDISTRICTING

Supreme Court agrees to hear Maryland redistricting case

The Supreme Court said that it will hear a challenge to Maryland's congressional districts brought by seven Republican voters who say the state's 2011 redistricting violated their First Amendment rights.

The American Civil Rights Union

3213 Duke St., #625

Alexandria, VA 22314

<http://www.theacru.org>

<http://www.votingintegrityinstitute.org>

= 9

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From: gforgey@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:09 AM
To: Rep93
Subject: Please help fix Ohio's payday loan laws

Alecia Forgey
675 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Vinton, OH 45686

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Smith
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear Representative Smith,

More than 1 million Ohioans have taken out a payday loan. With a typical APR of 591%, Ohioans are charged the highest rates in the nation for these small loans. By fixing Ohio's laws we can reform payday loan products to make sure that they are safe. This will save Ohio families \$75 million a year - money that would be better spent in our local community instead of being sent to out-of-state companies.

Borrowers end up in long-term debt because these loans have unaffordable payments. Ohioans who sign up for \$300 typically pay more than \$680 in fees over five months of the year. It doesn't have to be this way. Lenders charge people in other states far less.

I urge you to support HB 123. This bill will ensure that Ohioans continue to have access to credit, give borrowers more time to repay, and set reasonable interest rates.

Sincerely,
Alecia Forgey

From: We Are Ohio
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

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December 19, 2017

Dear Representative Smith,

As Chairman of We Are Ohio, I am writing to ask you not to sign on as a co-sponsor to Representative John Becker's anti-worker legislation and to oppose Rep. Becker's efforts to hurt working families in your district and across Ohio.

Rep. Becker, we believe, is pursuing an anti-worker agenda pushed by out-of-state interests like the Koch brothers, Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

He has outlined six separate constitutional amendments that are all designed to hurt workers, lower wages, decrease safety in the workplace and cause further economic insecurity for the people that you serve.

On behalf of We Are Ohio, I'm asking you to stand for workers in your district and our state and to stand against these out-of-state parties. I'm sure you would agree that Ohio elected officials should represent the people of Ohio, not out of state interests.

We Are Ohio was formed in 2011 when a similar threat to workers' security was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich. We asked the citizens to veto Senate Bill 5 that year and restore collective bargaining rights to public sector employees, and they responded with historic numbers.

Nearly 1.3 million Ohioans signed petitions to put the citizens veto on the ballot, 17,000 Ohioans volunteered for the campaign and, on Election Day, 2.1 million Ohioans voted to veto Senate Bill 5 by a 62-38 margin.

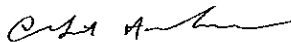
We Are Ohio has remained a force since then. We have held meetings all across the state, have a huge online presence and maintain a database and email list of nearly 1 million voters who agreed with us in 2011.

We believe that the prudent course here is for the legislature to steer away from any anti-worker laws, amendments or ballot initiatives and we ask for your support.

Governor Kasich has acknowledged that such legislation does not attract business to our great state.

I'm respectfully asking you to tell Representative Becker that his ideas are harmful and divisive and that we don't want history to repeat itself.

= 9 Sincerely,



Christopher Mabe
Chairman - We Are Ohio

We Are Ohio
545 E. Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215

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From: American Bail Coalition
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 9:35 PM
To: Rep93
CC: jclayton@americanbail.org
Subject: Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board on Bail Reform

 American Bail Coalition

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As government stewards, elected officials, and stakeholders in the safety of the citizens of Ohio, I write to you today concerning the ongoing misinformation regarding bail reform.

You may have recently been given a copy of a report from the Buckeye Institute, entitled **"Money Bail" Making Ohio A More Dangerous Place to Live**. This report contains so many errors and incomplete information that, frankly, it should be discarded. Yet, we wanted to take an opportunity to counter some of the claims made in the report and set the bail reform debate into the proper context.

First, "money bail" is not making Ohio a more dangerous place to live. The bail system in Ohio is essentially the same one being run since statehood. The right to bail is enshrined in the Ohio constitution, and Judges have discretion to set the "type, amount, and conditions" of bail. This is also why 69% of judges in a recent National Judicial College Survey did not agree with the elimination of money bail from the system.

Second, what does the Buckeye Institute's new bail utopia cost? New Jersey's program, given as an example, will run out of money on July 1, 2018 unless the legislature completely overhauls the funding of that program. The costs to implement such a program were in excess of \$1 billion in California. Added to that, not only are there not savings, as both Administrative Judge Glenn Grant in New Jersey and the California Chief Justice concur, the costs of shifting away from monetary bail to risk assessments and supervision will largely not materialize and the cost the State and Counties millions of dollars.

Third, the litany of examples cited by the report as horrifying cases where someone was able to post bail begs the question as to what the Buckeye Institute would do with such cases. Yet, the Ohio Constitution already covers

this, giving the power to prosecutors to prove the danger or risk of flight and deny bail. The report suggests that somehow a risk assessment will fix the problem, yet the results of the assessment do not relieve a prosecutor of having to put up the proof necessary to achieve the result.

The report argues that several jurisdictions are seeing tremendous results due to bail reform, but this relies on the results generated by a private foundation that provides a free proprietary risk assessment tool and does its own evaluation of the results. It should come as no surprise that they think it works. **Instead, in sworn testimony, a national expert testified in federal court that the Lucas County, Ohio program has very high failure rates, including 47% of high risk cases. As a result of that testimony, the attorneys in the case concluded that Lucas County, Ohio had created a culture of "non-accountability" in its bail system.**

In San Francisco, the report issued there found that 27% of defendants did not show up under the risk assessment model. In New Jersey, the state has failed to release any numbers, and the report's citation to crime figures does not prove that bail reform has anything to do with that since New Jersey's prison population has declined every year for 15 years - and the population had been declining by double digits leading up to bail reform. Of course, New Jersey's algorithm is releasing prior felons in possession of firearms, counting them as low risk, similar to what is going on in New Mexico.

Risk assessments are indeed not a magic bullet, and there have been serious criticisms lodged against them which the Buckeye Institute report completely ignores. Researchers at New York University concluded: **"The use of such systems by public agencies raises serious due process concerns, and at a minimum they should be available for public auditing, testing, and review, and subject to accountability standards."** Former US Attorney General Eric Holder has also cautioned jurisdictions who using risk assessments saying they "may exacerbate unwarranted and unjust disparities that are already far too common in our criminal justice system and in our society." Several additional recent studies and experts have called into question the race and gender neutrality of such algorithms, and the jury is certainly still out on that question. Indeed the utter lack of transparency of such algorithms is of serious concern.

The Buckeye Institute decides to then demean the bail industry for helping persons exercise their right to bail in Ohio and provide accountability to the Courts. The report cites no statistics on the effectiveness of surety bail in Ohio. That's not to say that adjustments cannot be made, but national data as well as data in Ohio back up the fact that private bail is effective and efficient because it is typically a third-party benefit provided to the State and a defendant at no cost to the State.

Sadly, the Buckeye Institute has sunk to the level of citing newspaper articles as some proof of the key points it makes. It does such surface-level analysis that clearly the conclusion informed the selection of the "research"

that is cited. For example, the fact that 57% of persons in jail are awaiting trial tells us nothing—how many of those persons are on a non-monetary hold? Or, what is their prior criminal history, and what would the risk assessment say about them based thereon? How many are there because their attorneys are advising them to take a time-served deal?

The Buckeye Institute needs to go back to the drawing board with its assessment of bail reform. Moving away from "money bail" has not proven to deliver on its promises. While adjustments to the system can always be made, putting our blind faith in "black-box" algorithms to fix the problem is not only unproven, it is simply naïve.

Sincerely,

Jeff Clayton
Executive Director
American Bail Coalition
(877) 958-6628

From: Cindy Harris

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:01 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers' office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

These six proposals would effectively undo labor law that has helped serve as a catalyst to create Ohio's middle class.

These proposals are nothing but a an attempt bu out-of-state groups like ALEC to silence workers at the workplace and slash wages and benefits at a time when they have been stagnant for far too long.

Neither employers nor workers and union members like myself are asking for these union-busting bills to be enacted.

Working people overwhelmingly rejected these types of attacks in 2011 when they used the citizens' veto and repealed Senate Bill 5. Ohioans strongly believe that it is past time to put the ugliness and spitefulness behind us and work to find common ground with all political parties, business and labor, on different ways to grow our economy from the middle out and raise wages for all.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Cindy Harris

suzzanneharris@earthlink.net

1451 wildwood rd

Bidwell, Ohio Oh

From: Bess Caldwell

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:01 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Bess Caldwell

bcaldwell53@msn.com

2 Grady Lane

Wellston , Ohio 45692

From: Brandon DeLong

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:03 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Brandon DeLong

brand0ns.messy@yahoo.com

3543 county road 19

Kitts hill, Ohio 45645

From: Daniel Lewis

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:04 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Daniel Lewis

lewisdbrian1978@gmail.com

316 N New Jersey Ave

Wellston ohio , Ohio 45692

From: Robert Mitchell

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:06 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Robert Mitchell
rjm7o@yahoo.com
9634 Bulaville Pike
Bidwell, Ohio 45614

From: Kurt Hinterschied
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 7:36 PM
To: Rep93; Rep61
CC: Kurt Hinterschied
Subject: House Bill 53 and House Bill 113

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning State Representatives,

I understand House Bills 53 (Public Sector Right to Work) and 113 (Private Sector Right to Work) are stuck in committee and don't seem to be making much progress. I don't know if the Republican's are afraid of these because of the SB5 failure awhile ago but these bills are very reasonable and Kentucky, West Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin have all passed similar bills as I understand it.

The private sector version would improve job creation because they would be either an incentive for companies to remain here or attract new companies as well, and I'm sure I don't need to explain why. Our state is lagging in net job creation and this would definitely help.

The public sector version would undoubtedly weaken the unions that have driven public employee wages, such as teachers, well beyond what the typical Ohioan earns, and lower our income and especially high property taxes which continue to rise. For example, Ohioans endure endless school levies, which are often due to the ridiculous salaries teachers receive in their union contracts. I used to live in Westerville and there were kindergarten teachers making \$95,000 for 9 months of work while the average citizen struggles to make ends meet and gets two weeks vacation. The public sector, such as police, fire, and teachers alike, also receive lavish health and retirement benefits that go far beyond what the average Ohioan receives. It's simply wrong and it needs to change.

Another benefit of passing these for Republicans is the direct financial impact the Democrats would feel from weakened unions that almost exclusively support Democrats.

Of course you'll receive push back from the unions, democrats, and the media, who will all lie about the purpose of these bills, but passing this legislation is simply the right thing to do for the majority of people in Ohio.

If a Democrat governor wins next year, these bills would definitely be vetoed so now is the time to move on them.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to Ohio and I would greatly appreciate a response to this.

Sincerely,
Kurt Hinterschied

7771 Ramey Rd.

Centerburg, OH 43011-9604

Morrow County

Ph# 614-747-1100

From: Velvie McKenzie

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:08 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers' office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Velvie McKenzie

Velviej@yahoo.com

4070 Bethel Ridge Road

Jackson, Ohio 45640

From: Michael Blakeman

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:17 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers' office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Michael Blakeman

michaelblocal769@gmail.com

2308 cherry fork rd

Oak hill Ohio , Ohio 45656

From: Rick Lundy

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:35 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Rick Lundy
rick_lundy@ymail.com
403 Riegel Ridge Rd
Jackson , Ohio 45640

From: Joseph Mahle

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:38 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Joseph Mahle
jmah29@yahoo.com
316 east 8th
wellston, Ohio 45692

From: Emily Mahle

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:43 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan-Smith,

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Emily Mahle

browne34.mahle11@gmail.com

316 East 8th Street

Wellston, Ohio 45692

From: Dakota wheeler

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 10:27 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Dakota wheeler

dakota.wheeler95@yahoo.com

4070 Bethel Ridge Road

Jackson, Ohio 45640

From: Shane Barton

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 1:35 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers' office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Shane Barton

shanebass74@gmail.com

400 simmering ridge road

Oak Hill, Ohio 45656

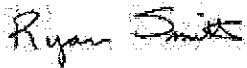
From: Rep93
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 2:35 PM
To: 'gforgey@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: Please help fix Ohio's payday loan laws

Dear Alecia,

Thank you for reaching out. I am aware of the need for payday loan reform and support the effort to bring legislative changes to the process. House bill 123 is currently in the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, of which I am a member. The bill is in its beginning stages and I will continue to work with the committee members to find a sensible solution to this important issue.

I appreciate your concern on the topic and invite you to contact my office with any further public policy matters that are of interest to you.

Sincerely,



Ryan Smith
State Representative, District 93

-----Original Message-----

From: gforgey@yahoo.com [mailto:gforgey@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:09 AM
To: Rep93 <Rep93@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Please help fix Ohio's payday loan laws

Alecia Forgey
675 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Vinton, OH 45686

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Smith
77 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear Representative Smith,

More than 1 million Ohioans have taken out a payday loan. With a typical APR of 591%, Ohioans are charged the highest rates in the nation for these small loans. By fixing Ohio's laws we can reform payday loan products to make sure that they are safe. This will save Ohio families \$75 million a year - money that would be better spent in our local community instead of being sent to out-of-state companies.

Borrowers end up in long-term debt because these loans have unaffordable payments. Ohioans who sign up for \$300 typically pay more than \$680 in fees over five months of the year. It doesn't have to be this way. Lenders charge people in other states far less.

I urge you to support HB 123. This bill will ensure that Ohioans continue to have access to credit, give borrowers more time to repay, and set reasonable interest rates.

Sincerely,
Alecia Forgey

From: Heartland Government Relations
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: The Leaflet: The \$6 Trillion Albatross Around States' Necks

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the leaflet

Weekly policy updates from
THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE 

The \$6 Trillion Albatross Around States' Necks

America's many public pension problems are well known to those involved in public policy, but the issues might be even worse than previously believed. Researchers at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) report in a new study, titled *Unaccountable and Unaffordable 2017*, unfunded public pension liabilities (the amount of present liabilities that exceeds current assets) total more than \$6 trillion across the 50 states. That amounts to \$18,676 for each U.S. resident. This is due to many factors, including low contribution rates, overly generous benefits, automatic cost of living adjustments (COLAs), unrealistic assumed return rates, and states borrowing too much money to cover other expenditures. The ALEC study examines more than 280 state-administered public pension plans and reports each state's unfunded pension liabilities using a realistic assumed rate of return of 2.142 percent on investments—instead of the 7.34 unweighted rate averaged from states' current plans. Three metrics used to judge the health of states' pension systems are highlighted: total unfunded liability, unfunded liabilities per capita, and the funding ratio—the most important measure.

According to ALEC, with a funding ratio of 61.5 percent, Wisconsin has the best managed pension system. Second in line is South Dakota, at 48.1 percent. The researchers attribute Wisconsin's relatively high funding ratio to the state's hybrid pension model, which includes elements of both a traditional defined-benefit plan and a defined-contribution model. Retirement plans in the private sector are usually defined-contribution plans, such as a

401(k) or 403(b), which rely heavily on stock market performance and other financial instruments.

The three least-funded states in the study are Illinois (23.3 percent), Kentucky (20.9 percent), and Connecticut (19.7 percent). Each of these states experienced a dip in their funding ratios compared to 2016. Connecticut's dead-last ranking is not surprising. It is "one of four states to set retiree benefits through collective bargaining and is unique in that the legislature does not have to consent to contracts for them to go into effect." The state also uses an assumed rate of return of 8 percent, which paints an extremely unrealistic picture of the pension system's financial solvency.

Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin (R) has expressed interest in ending the use of defined-benefit pensions in his state. He would replace them with 401(k)-like plans for new public employees and current ones who choose to transfer their old pensions. Bevin has also proposed lowering the assumed return rate, which is currently 6.75 percent. Low investment returns, COLAs, and state contribution shortfalls primarily led to Kentucky's pension crisis. The pension problems were partially addressed by the state's 2013 bi-partisan reforms, which the Bluegrass State is likely to consider reforming again in 2018.

Illinois is the third-least-funded state and has the third-largest unfunded liability debt, which now totals \$388.342 billion, according to ALEC's calculations. A bill has been proposed in Illinois to create a defined-contribution retirement plan for new state employees hired after June 30, 2018, and current employees who wish to move their pensions into the new model. An opinion poll of Illinoisans shows 78 percent of respondents favor letting current state workers enroll in a 401(k)-style plan and 60 percent favor requiring new state workers to enroll in a 401(k)-style plan.

In a *Research & Commentary*, Heartland Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans explains why states must begin to make drastic changes to their public pension liabilities and not wait until it's far too late to address pension problems. "Kicking the public-pension can down the road would only serve to delay the problem, and increasing taxes and ignoring the core problems created by defined-benefit systems would only ensure the pension system will never become solvent. Comprehensive reforms that allow governments to better manage employee retirement costs are desperately needed, both in Illinois and across the country," Glans wrote.

What We're Working On

Energy & Environment

Nebraska Approves Last Segment of Keystone XL Pipeline

In this article for *Environment & Climate News*, H. Sterling Burnett, Heartland's senior fellow on environmental policy issues, writes about the Nebraska Public Service Commission's (NPSC) approval of the final segment of the \$8 billion Keystone XL Pipeline. With NPSC's 3-2 decision, the Keystone XL Pipeline cleared its final regulatory hurdle after an arduous nine-year struggle. Despite the fact the permits have been granted, questions remain about whether the final segment of Keystone XL will be completed. For much of the time the pipeline was under consideration, oil prices exceeded \$100 per barrel. With oil now hovering around \$50 per barrel, it is unclear whether the pipeline still makes economic sense.

Education

Chronic Public School Teacher Absenteeism Underscores Need for School Choice Options

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about a new Fordham Institute report that found one out of every four teachers (28.3 percent) at traditional public schools across the United States are "chronically absent," meaning they are out of the classroom for sick or personal leave at least 10 days in a typical 180-day school year. In Florida, more than 40 percent of traditional public school teachers are chronically absent. Even worse, more than 50 percent of Nevada traditional public school teachers and a staggering 79 percent of Hawaii traditional public school teachers are chronically absent.

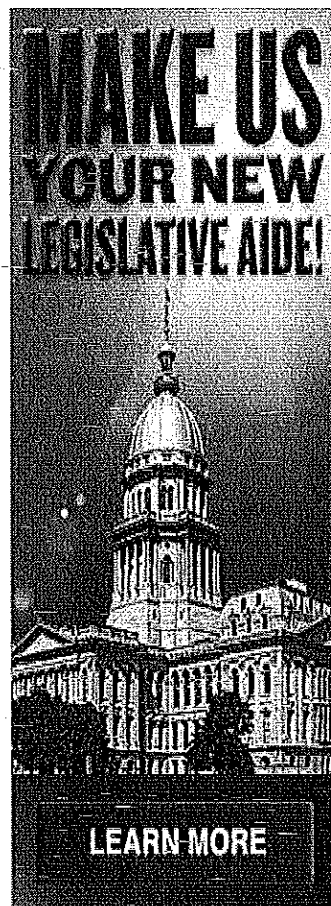
Health Care

Research & Commentary: Arizona Seeks Medicaid Waiver to Install Work Requirements

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines Arizona's effort to use Medicaid waivers to add work requirements and time limits to its Medicaid program. "Implementing Medicaid work requirements would be a good first step for Medicaid-expansion and non-expansion states toward helping to limit the rising costs of Medicaid," Glans wrote.

Budget & Tax

Research & Commentary: Iowa Needs Pension Reform



POLICY NEWSPAPER

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines the need for comprehensive pension reform in Iowa. "Hybrid [pension] models do not eliminate all the problems of defined-benefit plans, but they do limit the rapid growth of liabilities in the future. Iowa policymakers should consider using hybrid plans as a viable model for reforming state workers' pensions," wrote Glans.

From Our Free-Market Friends

Free Speech on Alabama Campuses

In "Free Speech on Campus in Alabama," the Alabama Policy Institute (API) explores problems and solutions related to free speech on college campuses located in the state. Fourteen colleges and universities in Alabama were either given a "red light" or "yellow light" rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) for having policies that prohibit speech. None were given a green light. The difference between "red light" and "yellow light" schools is that red light colleges apply more severe and broader restrictions on speech. API recommends university administrations explicitly state their support for freedom of speech on campuses, and it calls for state legislators to pass legislation safeguarding First Amendment rights for all college students.



In the January issue of *School Reform News*, Jenni White reports on the continue widespread use of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) despite public resistance. Activists and analysts say replacement standards have been nothing more than a rebrand of Common Core. An Abt Associates study analyzing nine CCSS revisions confirms nine states kept their standards intact.

[Environment & Climate News](#)

[Budget & Tax News](#)

[Health Care News](#)

The Heartland Institute

The Heartland Institute is a 33-year-old national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.



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Heartland Government Relations
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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Subject: Tax Bill Tops Trump's Year One Legislative Victories



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PUBLIC POLICY

Law360 Closed For Christmas and New Year's Day

Regular newsletter service will resume on Tuesday, January 2.

Friday, December 22, 2017

Follow

TOP NEWS

Analysis

Tax Bill Tops Trump's Year One Legislative Victories

President Donald Trump's efforts in Congress this year hit a high point Wednesday with the passage of a sweeping tax overhaul, but that came after several speedbumps and intraparty squabbles that experts said aren't likely to make his sophomore year any easier. [Read more »](#)

Analysis

Kozinski's Exit Escalates Fight Over 9th Circ. Seats

Judge Alex Kozinski's retirement from the Ninth Circuit this week amid allegations he behaved inappropriately adds another vacancy to the high-profile appellate court, which was already a battleground in the ongoing struggle over President Donald Trump's drive to put his stamp on the federal judiciary. [Read more »](#)

Trump Emoluments Suit Tossed For Lack Of Standing



[Listen to our new podcast here](#)

LAW FIRMS

Akin Gump

Baker Donelson

Ballard Spahr

A New York federal judge Thursday dismissed a lawsuit alleging President Donald Trump has a conflict of interest through his hospitality holdings that's resulted in influence-peddling in violation of the U.S. Constitution's emoluments clause, saying a nonprofit ethics group and hospitality representatives lacked standing to sue. [Read more »](#)

Congress Passes Temporary Funding, Avoids Shutdown

Congress passed legislation Thursday to avoid a federal government shutdown over the holidays, dodging contentious issues such as immigration in a bill that would allow spending to continue through Jan. 19 [Read more »](#)

Feds Bid For Quick Win In Border Wall Construction Suit

The federal government on Wednesday asked a California federal court for a quick win in a suit brought by the state and several environmental organizations challenging the Trump administration's plans to waive environmental laws so it can move forward with its border wall project. [Read more »](#)

Challenge To Public Union Fees Gets High Court Hearing Date

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Wednesday a Feb. 26 date for oral arguments in a case in which an Illinois state employee is seeking to overturn the high court's ruling that public-sector employers can require workers to pay union fees. [Read more »](#)

BANKING & SECURITIES

Treasury, FHFA Allow Fannie And Freddie To Retain Capital

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will be allowed to build up a capital buffer of \$3 billion each under an agreement announced Thursday by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the

Black Srebnick
Brann & Isaacson
Buchanan Ingersoll
Cleary Gottlieb
Cohen Milstein
Colson Hicks
DLA Piper
Davis Wright Tremaine
Earthjustice
Edelson PC
Fish & Richardson
Foley & Lardner
Goldstein & Russell
Goodwin
Gupta Wessler
Holland & Knight
Jenner & Block
K&L Gates
Kellogg Hansen
Littler Mendelson
Manfredonia Law Offices
McDermott Will
Moore & Van Allen
Morrison & Foerster
Mowry & Grimson
Munger Tolles
Norton Rose Fulbright
Pietragallo-Gordon
Reed Smith
Ropes & Gray
Schiff Hardin
Sedgwick LLP
Skadden
Stradley Ronon
Taft Stettinius
Whitcomb Selinsky
Winston & Strawn
Womble Bond Dickinson

regulator that oversees the government-backed mortgage companies. [Read more »](#)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

Ex-EPA Judge Tapped To Helm NJ Environmental Agency

New Jersey Gov.-elect Phil Murphy on Thursday appointed former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency judge Catherine McCabe to helm the state's Department of Environmental Protection when he replaces Gov. Chris Christie in January. [Read more »](#)

EPA Is Illegally Pushing Out Science Advisers, Suit Says

A coalition of scientific advocacy groups and individuals filed suit Thursday against the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, arguing that a policy removing members of the agency's scientific advisory committees for receiving EPA grants violated federal rules and was an effort to favor industry and deregulation. [Read more »](#)

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

Trump's Defense Health Pick Withdraws Over Gun Control

President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Department of Defense's top civilian health care position announced late Wednesday that he had withdrawn from consideration for the role, saying that his nomination was being indefinitely held up by a Senate committee after he called for more stringent gun control. [Read more »](#)

Second Judge Halts Trump's ACA Birth Control Waiver Rules

A California federal judge on Thursday dealt another setback to the Trump administration's rules permitting employers to claim religious or moral exemptions to the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate, ordering a temporary halt to their implementation less than a week

Zuckerman Spaeder

COMPANIES

AARP Inc.

AT&T Inc.

Altman Weil Inc.

American Bar Association

American Chemistry Council Inc.

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Hospital Association

Aramark Corp.

Bridgestone Corp.

BuzzFeed Inc.

CIM Group Inc.

Cable News Network Inc.

Cato Institute

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington

Competitive Enterprise Institute

D-Link Corporation

Daimler AG

Deloitte Touche

Elevate Services Inc.

Equifax Inc.

Ernst & Young

Facebook

Fannie Mae

FedEx Corporation

Fordham University

Freddie Mac

Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Independent Community Bankers of America

Integreon Managed Solutions Inc.

after a federal judge in Pennsylvania did the same. [Read more »](#)

Hospitals Urge Judge to Halt \$1.6B Cut to Drug Payments

Hospital groups urged a D.C. federal judge Thursday to temporarily block a planned U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reimbursement tweak that will slash \$1.6 billion from the 340B drug discount program, arguing the government overstepped its bounds and is open to a legal challenge. [Read more »](#)

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

BuzzFeed Needn't Disclose Trump Dossier Source: Judge

A Florida federal judge denied a bid Thursday to force BuzzFeed News to disclose its source for a dossier claiming the Russian government has compromising information on President Donald Trump and that a Russian tech executive's companies helped target Democratic leaders' computers. [Read more »](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Analysis

NLRB Erases Obama-Era Precedent As 2017 Draws To A Close

The Trump administration put its stamp on federal labor law last week, with a Republican-led National Labor Relations Board issuing five precedential rulings, including one that overturned the Obama board's controversial joint employer standard. Here, experts weigh the impact of the recent decisions and say what to expect from the NLRB in the new year. [Read more »](#)

CONSUMER PROTECTION

CFPB Plans To Reopen Mortgage Disclosure Rulemaking

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Thursday said it intends to "reconsider" a 2015

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

KPMG International

LM Ericsson Telephone Company

Lexmark International, Inc.

LinkedIn Corp.

Major Lindsey & Africa

Mortgage Bankers Association

National Conference of State Legislatures

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Public Radio Inc.

National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation

Natural Resources Defense Council

Netflix Inc.

Newegg Inc.

Overstock.com Inc.

Physicians for Social Responsibility

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Procter & Gamble Co.

QUALCOMM Incorporated

Raytheon Company

Sierra Club

Target Corporation

Tax Foundation

The Boeing Company

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc.

Trump Organization Inc.

United Steelworkers

UnitedHealth Group Inc.

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Washington Post Co.

rule expanding disclosures that banks and other mortgage lenders have to make, and ease lenders into complying with the rule when it takes effect in January. [Read more »](#)

CFPB Delays Prepaid Card Regulation's Effective Date

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Thursday said it plans to make changes to a rule governing the prepaid card market and further extend the compliance date so that card issuers have more time to prepare for those changes. [Read more »](#)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Claims Court Slams Agencies' Divergent Small-Biz Rules

The Court of Federal Claims restored a company's ability to pursue U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs contracts set aside for businesses owned by disabled veterans in a decision Thursday, one day after it had reluctantly backed the Small Business Administration's "draconian" determination that the business did not qualify for set-aside contracts under its rules, which the court said veered from the VA's. [Read more »](#)

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE

DOD Issues Guidance For Recruiting Transgender Troops

The U.S. Department of Defense has issued detailed guidance, made public Wednesday, regarding how military recruiters should process transgender recruits, amid an ongoing legal battle over whether the DOD can delay a court-ordered Jan. 1 deadline to accept those recruits. [Read more »](#)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

US Producers Cheer As Japan Backs Common Food Names

Wayfair LLC

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Army Corps of Engineers
California Attorney General's Office
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Delaware Attorney General's Office
Department of Commerce
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
European Commission
European Union
Executive Office of the President
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.
Federal Housing Finance Agency
Federal Judicial Center
Federal Trade Commission
International Trade Commission
Jamul Indian Village
Maryland Attorney General's Office
NAFTA
National Indian Gaming Commission
National Labor Relations Board
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
New York Attorney General's Office
Ohio Department of Taxation
Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Securities and Exchange Commission
Small Business Administration
Texas Legislature
U.S. Air Force
U.S. Army

The Japanese government drew plaudits from U.S. food producers Wednesday for its commitment to treat food names like parmesan and bologna as generic terms under Tokyo's recently enacted trade agreement with the European Union. [Read more »](#)

Commerce Slammed For Self-Triggered Aluminum Probe

The U.S. Department of Commerce's decision to self-initiate an investigation of Chinese aluminum raises serious questions about the agency's ability to conduct the probe in a fair and impartial manner, a respondent-side attorney said Thursday. [Read more »](#)

TAX

Senate's Extenders Bill Prolongs Targeted Tax Benefits

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, introduced a bill Wednesday that would renew expiring tax breaks that benefit the renewable energy industry, Native Americans and other groups. [Read more »](#)

SD Tax Case Set For Early January High Court Conference

The U.S. Supreme Court has scheduled South Dakota v. Wayfair for conference on Jan. 5, so the tax world may know on Jan. 8 whether the court is willing to consider scrapping the physical presence test for collection and remittance of state use tax. [Read more »](#)

Texas Comptroller Announces 2018 Tax Amnesty Program

Texas' comptroller said Thursday some Lone Star state taxpayers will be allowed to come clean about their unpaid state tax liabilities without paying interest or penalties for about two months next year. [Read more »](#)

German Anti-Fraud Tax Rule Too Broad, EU's Top Court Rules

U.S. Attorney's Office
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Treasury
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Postal Service
U.S. Senate
U.S. Sentencing Commission
U.S. Supreme Court
Unified Patent Court
Virginia Attorney General's Office

Germany's anti-abuse rule that denies withholding tax exemptions on dividend payments that German subsidiaries make to their parent companies in different countries is too overreaching to comply with European Union law, the EU's high court concluded on Wednesday. [Read more »](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN

End Gambling By 'Half-Blood' Tribe, 9th Circ. Told

An activist group and others who are opposed to the Jamul Indian Village's casino located near San Diego told the Ninth Circuit on Wednesday that the tribe is a "half-blood Indian group" that isn't recognized by the federal government properly and shouldn't have been allowed to establish gambling. [Read more »](#)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Feds Get FOIA Suit Over AT&T Contract Trimmed

A Vermont federal judge on Wednesday trimmed most of the claims in a Freedom of Information Act suit accusing the U.S. Department of Commerce of improperly denying documents related to a nationwide wireless network contract awarded to AT&T, but upheld one claim alleging the agency failed to complete an appropriate privacy impact assessment. [Read more »](#)

WHITE COLLAR

Atty's Failure Led To Lawmaker's Conviction, Pa. Justices Told

A convicted ex-Pennsylvania legislative leader is urging the state's Supreme Court to find that his former attorney's failure to preserve testimony from a group of witnesses effectively neutered efforts to defend himself from charges that he ordered statehouse staffers to

campaign for him during business hours. Read more »

Fla. Hospital Execs Allege Prosecutorial Misconduct

Five Florida hospital executives facing criminal charges for allegedly violating open government laws by holding secret meetings in which they decided to fire a former interim chief executive on Tuesday asked for review of grand jury proceedings based on concerns of prosecutorial misconduct they say would warrant dismissal. Read more »

PEOPLE

Longtime SEC Enforcer Will Join Private Practice

An associate director of the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission who has spent some 20 years at the agency will retire at the end of 2017 to return to private practice, the regulator said on Thursday. Read more »

EXPERT ANALYSIS

Leniency Trend In White Collar Cases Continues Under Trump

We are witnessing a shift in the way the criminal justice system views white collar offenses. Judges have become more open-minded and considerate, willing to mete out sentences based on a growing variety of factors. And there are indications the proposed Mens Rea Reform Act will gain steam in 2018, says Lara Yeretsian of Yeretsian Law. Read more »

Can Gov't Hide Adverse Comments On Proposed Rules?

Recent reports of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services refusing to publicly post comments on a Trump administration proposal to reduce federal regulations for religious and faith-based groups

raises the question of whether this selective disclosure violates the agency's legal obligations, says Steven Gordon of Holland & Knight LLP. [Read more »](#)

CPSC Final Rule Could Presage Further Phthalate Bans

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recently issued a final rule prohibiting the manufacture, import and sale of toys and child care products containing five phthalate chemicals. The rule may foreshadow bans on phthalates in other products and industries, from cosmetics to food packaging, say Sarah Schiferl and Amy Rubenstein of Schiff Hardin LLP. [Read more »](#)

Comparing EU And US Standard-Essential Patent Guidance

The European Commission's long-awaited guidance on litigating and licensing standard-essential patents clarifies what conduct may insulate an SEP owner from abuse claims under competition law, in sharp contrast to the U.S., where the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Department of Justice have declined to adopt any views on the subject, say Edward Kelly and Regina Sam Penti of Ropes & Gray LLP. [Read more »](#)

Spoilation Scrutiny: Disparate Standards For Distinct Mediums

Two years ago, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(e) was amended to provide a clearer road map for courts analyzing whether to permit sanctions for the spoliation of evidence. Yet there is still no specific guidance for when a sanctions request relates to electronically stored *and* nonelectronically stored information, says Skadden associate Robin Shah. [Read more »](#)

LEGAL INDUSTRY

Analysis

5 Events That Rocked The Legal Industry In 2017

From increasing stratification among law firms to the growing threat of cyberattacks, here are some of the major events that shaped the legal industry in 2017. [Read more »](#)

Clerks Urge Chief Justice To Tackle Sexual Harassment

A group of 695 current and former clerks and law professors sent a petition late Wednesday requesting that judicial employee guides be revised to provide better guidance on reporting sexual harassment and urged Chief Justice John Roberts to reassure individuals considering reporting misconduct that there will be no retaliation. [Read more »](#)

Skadden Announces Expanded Parental Leave Policy

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP announced on Wednesday that it would expand its parental leave policy, offering new mothers and fathers up to 12 weeks of paid leave following a birth or adoption, joining the growing number of BigLaw firms that have recently enhanced their offerings to potential parents. [Read more »](#)

ABA Aims For Uniformity In Lawyer Ad Model Rule Changes

The American Bar Association on Thursday proposed changes to lawyer advertising in the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, with a focus on provisions related to false and misleading "communications" and solicitations by those in the law profession, according to a press release from the legal organization. [Read more »](#)

GC Cheat Sheet: The Hottest Corporate News Of The Week

President Donald Trump and Republican lawmakers took a victory lap with the passage of the GOP tax cut bill, an associate producer for a Netflix series filed the latest sexual assault lawsuit against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and Trump signed a bill to buttress

tribal training and jobs. These are some of the top stories in corporate legal news you may have missed this week. [Read more »](#)

JOBS

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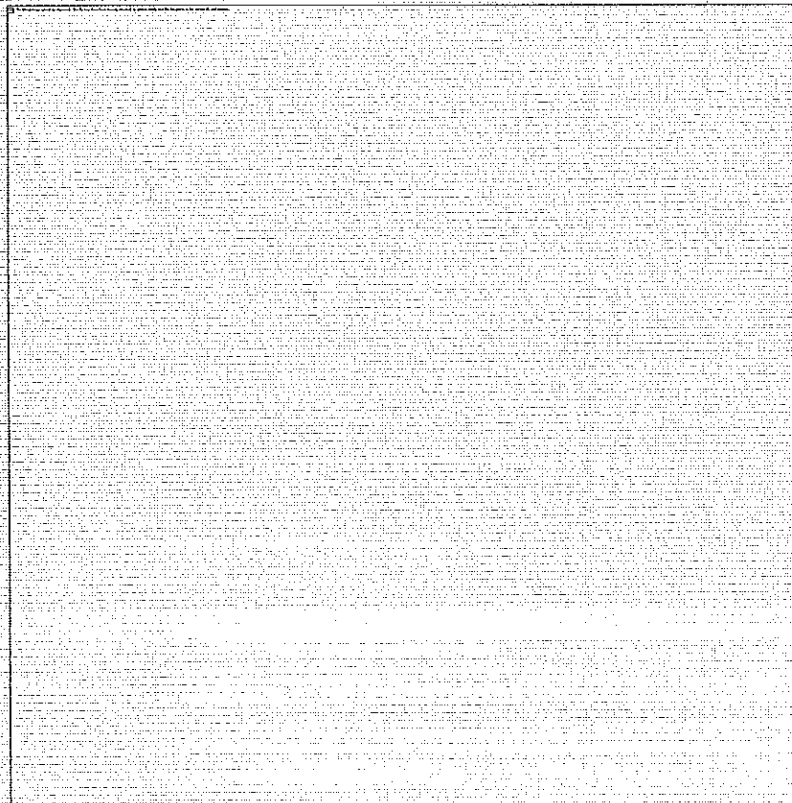
From: Morning Consult

Sent: Friday, December 22, 2017 8:58 AM

To: Rep93

Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Congress Passes Spending Bill to Keep Government Funded Through Jan. 19

Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



By Eli Yokley

Morning Consult Washington will be off Dec. 25 through Jan. 1. Publication of the morning briefs and afternoon updates will resume Jan. 2.

Top Stories

- The House and Senate passed a stopgap spending bill that would avert a shutdown by funding the government through Jan. 19, with President Donald Trump expected to sign the measure into law today. The House also passed an \$81 billion disaster relief bill, but the Senate will wait until January to take it up due to Democratic objections. ([The Washington Post](#))
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said he is unlikely to push for changes to programs such as Social Security and Medicare next year, citing a lack of Democratic support. Earlier this month House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) indicated he wants to tackle entitlement reforms in 2018. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))
- The House Ethics Committee said it is expanding its investigation into Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas), who has been accused of sexually harassing at least one former staffer, to include allegations that he lied to the panel and misused official resources for campaign activities. The committee also said it is appointing a subcommittee to probe allegations of sexual misconduct made by a former campaign aide and a Nevada-based lobbyist against Rep. Ruben Kihuen (D-Nev.), who has said he will not seek re-election next year. ([Politico](#))
- The Senate spent more than \$1.45 million over the past 20 years settling harassment and discrimination cases, according to data released by the Senate Rules Committee. While the data did not list specific settlements, the Senate's Office of Compliance has settled sexual discrimination and reprisal cases from a member-led office. ([The Hill](#))
- A federal judge in New York dismissed a lawsuit that alleged Trump violates the Constitution when his businesses receive payments from foreign and state governments, saying the plaintiffs lacked standing to bring the suit. The ruling did not

address whether government payments to Trump's businesses violate the Constitution's emoluments clauses. (The Wall Street Journal)

Chart Review

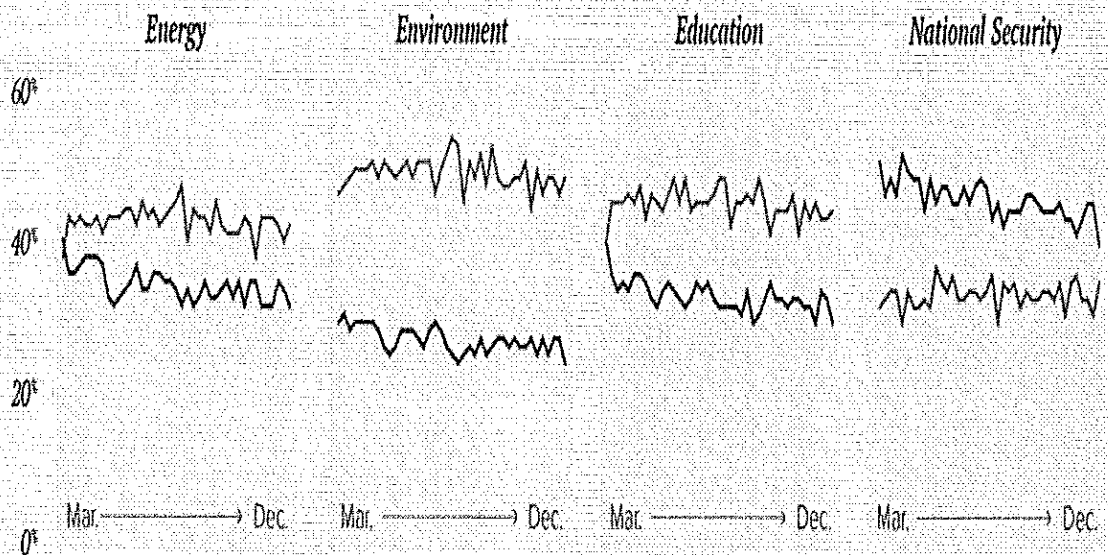
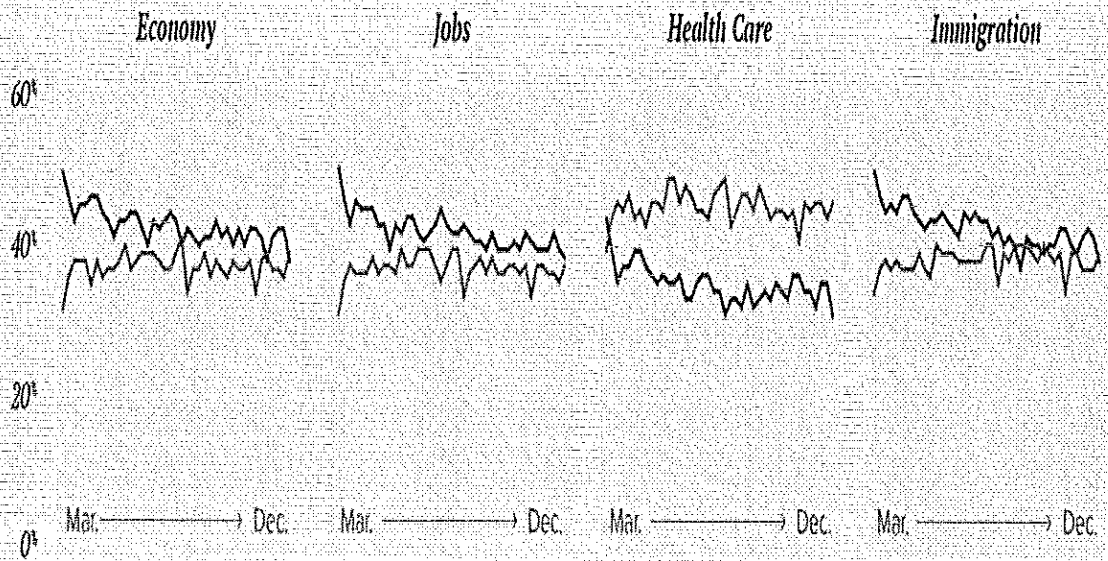
Shifting Opinion on GOP Leaders Signals Risks Ahead of Midterm Elections
Morning Consult

Voters' Shifting Trust in Each Party, by Issue

Who do you trust more to handle
each of the following issues?

____ Congressional Republicans

____ Congressional Democrats



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

FRIDAY

No events scheduled



2017

2017 Brands in Review

This year, Morning Consult conducted nearly 1 million survey interviews on nearly 1,000 brands. Get a never-before-seen look at how public perception changed for the world's biggest brands.

General

Senate passes stopgap spending bill, allowing Congress to avert partial government shutdown

Mike DeBonis and Eric Werner, The Washington Post

Congress passed a stopgap spending bill Thursday, averting a partial government shutdown at midnight Friday but pushing into January showdowns on spending, immigration, health care and national security. Among the issues still to be resolved is federal aid for victims of recent hurricanes and wildfires.

Obamacare enrollment down only slightly after late surge in demand

Caroline Humer, Reuters

Slightly fewer Americans have enrolled for insurance through the federal Obamacare marketplace compared to a year ago, the government said on Thursday, but the number was higher than expected in light of steps taken by President Donald Trump and Congress to undermine the 2010 law. After a surge in the final days of enrollment, about 8.8 million new and returning customers signed up for 2018 health insurance policies from private insurers on the HealthCare.gov online marketplace, a decline of about 4 percent from the figures for 2017 policies, preliminary figures released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) showed.

RNC launching multimillion-dollar effort to hit Dems on tax reform in 2018

Lisa Hagen, The Hill

The Republican National Committee (RNC) is gearing up to launch a multimillion-dollar effort at the start of 2018 aimed at vulnerable Democrats who voted against the GOP's tax bill. In January, the RNC will

institute the second phase of its data-focused field program to reach voters about details of the tax overhaul.

Population shifts show Sun Belt poised to gain in Congress
Reid Wilson, The Hill

Sun Belt states are likely to gain seats and influence in Congress after the next U.S. Census, according to yearly population growth estimates released this week. Southern and Western states growing fast enough to gain new seats in the House of Representatives will take those seats from states in the Rust Belt and the Upper Midwest, where population growth has slowed as economic opportunities have moved elsewhere.

Presidential

Judge Dismisses Lawsuit Alleging Foreign Payments to Trump Businesses Violate U.S. Constitution
Joe Palazzolo, The Wall Street Journal

A federal judge in Manhattan threw out a lawsuit that alleged President Donald Trump violates the U.S. Constitution when his businesses receive payments from foreign and state governments. A government watchdog group and business competitors of Mr. Trump who brought the lawsuit failed to show that the president's alleged violations caused them harm or that their alleged injuries fell within "the zone of interests" the U.S. Constitution's built-in anticorruption provisions seek to protect, U.S. District Judge George Daniels wrote in a 29-page opinion.

White House: Trump will likely sign tax bill Friday
Jordan Fabian, The Hill

President Trump will likely sign the Republican tax overhaul on Friday, according to a White House official. "There's a very good chance the president signs it tomorrow," said the official.

Second judge halts Trump rollback of ObamaCare birth control rule

Nathaniel Weixel, The Hill

A federal judge in California has temporarily blocked the Trump administration's recent rules allowing moral and religious exceptions to ObamaCare's birth control requirement, the second time this week a court has ruled against the administration. Judge Haywood Gilliam Jr. granted the injunction Thursday in the District Court for the Northern District of California.

Pence: New US-Afghanistan strategy 'already bearing fruit'

Ken Thomas, The Associated Press

Vice President Mike Pence swooped into Afghanistan for a secret meeting with Afghan leaders and a visit with U.S. troops, pointing to progress four months after President Donald Trump announced a new strategy to end a stalemate in America's longest war. Pence's unannounced trip was the first to the war-ravaged country by either Trump or the vice president, and it came as the Trump administration is seeking to stabilize the country by strengthening Afghan forces and seeking a conclusion to the 16-year war there.

Trump Deputy Chief of Staff to Step Down

Michael C. Bender, The Wall Street Journal

Rick Dearborn, one of President Donald Trump's top aides, will step down early next year to pursue private-sector work, White House officials said, becoming the latest high-profile departure from the West Wing in recent weeks. "Rick loyally served the president for two and a half years and brought tremendous energy to the White House staff," White House Chief of Staff John Kelly said.

Key White House economic adviser to depart

Damian Paletta, The Washington Post

White House National Economic Council Deputy Director Jeremy Katz is leaving the Trump administration early next month in what could mark a

churn of senior advisers. Katz, a Bush administration veteran who worked as NEC Director Gary Cohn's lieutenant, played a central role in coordinating the administration's push to overhaul the tax code.

Trump advisers vent frustrations about 2018 strategy as president listens

Josh Dawsey and Robert Costa, The Washington Post

Within hours of celebrating President Trump's biggest legislative achievement, at the South Portico of the White House on Wednesday, his aides and outside advisers had a spirited, and at times tense, discussion with him about the political outlook ahead of next year's midterm elections. The gathering saw tempers flare as aides vented their frustrations with electoral defeats this year and concerns about the 2018 political map, according to several people with knowledge of the discussion.

Trump targets human rights abusers with executive order
Victoria Guida, Politico

President Donald Trump cracked down Thursday on individuals and groups that his administration deems to be perpetrators or enablers of human rights abuses and corruption, the first action under a broad sanctions law passed a year ago. Trump signed an executive order declaring a national emergency related to "serious human rights abuse and corruption around the world" and imposed sanctions on 13 individuals, using his authority under the 2016 Global Magnitsky Act.

Trump Administration Official Opposed Abortion for Teen Impregnated After Rape
Brent Kendall, The Wall Street Journal

A Trump administration official who oversees undocumented minors in U.S. custody recently sought to deny a teenager permission to abort a pregnancy that was the result of a rape, according to a newly released court document. "Even supposing it was possible to justify abortion in this context, abortion does not here cure the reality that she is the victim

of an assault," Scott Lloyd, director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, wrote in a memo dated Dec. 17.

**President Donald Trump Watches Far Too Much Tv,
Americans Say In New Poll**
Linley Sanders, Newsweek

President Donald Trump needs to make a New Year's resolution to power off the television if he wants Americans to think he's a good commander in chief. Trump makes an effort to watch at least four hours of television daily-sometimes up to eight when his schedule allows-and a new poll indicates that Americans think it's hurting his job performance.

Senate

**Mitch McConnell Is Unlikely to Push for Social Security and
Medicare Changes in 2018**
Siobhan Hughes and Natalie Andrews, The Wall Street Journal

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Thursday he was unlikely to tackle changes to Social Security or Medicare next year; potentially extinguishing the hopes of House Speaker Paul Ryan to wring savings from the entitlement programs. "The only way I would be willing to go to entitlement reform-I assume that's a euphemism for things like Social Security and Medicare-would be if there were Democratic support," Mr. McConnell said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

**Senate has spent over \$1.45M settling harassment,
discrimination cases in last 20 years**
Jordain Carney, The Hill

The Senate spent more than \$1.45 million settling workplace harassment and discrimination cases over the past 20 years, according to data released by the Senate Rules Committee on Thursday. The Office of

Compliance (OOC) paid nearly \$600,000 in claims stemming from senators' offices across a total of 13 settlements, according to the data.

**A Senate Christmas Present: Several Trump Nominees
Confirmed**
Niels Lesniewski, Roll Call

At the very end of an acrimonious first year working with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office, the Senate reverted to form, looking very much like the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell came to the Senate floor after 9:30 p.m. to call for voice votes on a slew of pending Trump nominees to posts across the federal government.

**In private meeting, Schumer angrily confronted by Hispanic
Caucus members as prospects for DACA deal slip again**
Ed O'Keefe, The Washington Post

Disagreements among Democrats over how to keep fighting to enact legal protections for immigrant "dreamers" boiled over in the office of Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer on Thursday as he met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in what several participants described as a tense and heated exchange. In a vivid display of growing divisions in the party over how to fight Republicans on immigration policy, members of the Hispanic Caucus - a 31-member group of House and Senate Democrats - walked off the House floor Thursday afternoon and headed across the Capitol to Schumer's office suite.

Brownback won't get vote this year, GOP senator says
Jonathan Shorman et al., The Wichita Eagle

Gov. Sam Brownback will continue to wait for confirmation as ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, after the Senate Republican leader said he doesn't know when a vote will take place. Brownback's nomination is nearly half a year old, but negotiations between Senate Republicans and Democrats are set to push a vote into January.

'We're losing the war for truth': Franken denounces Trump, GOP in final floor speech
Elise Viebeck, The Washington Post

Sen. Al Franken bade farewell to Capitol Hill on Thursday with a lengthy broadside against the policies of the Trump administration and a call for politicians to commit themselves to "honesty in public discourse." The speech put to rest questions about whether Franken (D-Minn.) would follow through on his promise to resign over more than a half-dozen allegations that he had touched women inappropriately.

House

Ethics committee expands Rep. Farenthold probe
John Bresnahan, Politico

The House Ethics Committee announced late Thursday that it was expanding its investigation into GOP Rep. Blake Farenthold to include allegations he improperly used official resources for campaign activities, as well as lying to the panel. Farenthold is already under investigation over claims that he sexually harassed at least one former staffer.

Release of plan to change Congress' harassment rules is delayed
Elana Schor, Politico

Bipartisan House negotiators on Thursday delayed the release of a plan to overhaul Capitol Hill's workplace harassment policy, but the move appeared to signal momentum for action when Congress returns to Washington in 2018. As five House Republicans and Democrats who have worked on a consensus deal to modernize congressional office misconduct policy described themselves as "very close to finalizing" their proposal, a key Senate Republican involved in talks on Hill harassment policy sent another positive signal about action as soon as next month.

States

Oyster shucking? A duel? No, Virginia will pull a name from a film canister to settle tied election

Jenna Portnoy, The Washington Post

On CNN, they were holding up film canisters. On Twitter, there were suggestions of an oyster-shucking contest.

How states are coping with uncertainty of kids' health money **The Associated Press**

Examples of how states have been reacting to the threat of running out of federal money for the Children's Health Insurance Program. It was unclear how their plans might change with the short-term federal funds Congress approved Thursday.

Poll points to all-Democrat runoffs in California races for governor and senator

Seema Mehta, Los Angeles Times

Californians could see two Democrat-on-Democrat contests in the state's premier races in 2018, according to a new poll released Thursday. In the gubernatorial race, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom remains the front-runner with the support of 26% of likely voters in a Berkeley IGS poll.

Advocacy

Republicans plan mega marketing push to sell unpopular tax plan

Kevin Robillard et al., Politico

Conservative groups are planning a multimillion-dollar effort to sell the GOP's tax cut law, hoping the American electorate can learn to love the party's signature - but massively unpopular - legislative achievement.

"We have a public that distrusts anything coming out of Washington, especially anything from the majority party," said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, the grass-roots organizing arm of the powerful Koch brothers network of conservative groups.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

This Tax Bill May Do Some Good
Peggy Noonan, The Wall Street Journal

On the tax bill we begin grouchy and wind up, as befits the season, hopeful. Grouchy: Wednesday afternoon's big White House rally celebrating its passage was embarrassing.

The Four Threats to Robert Mueller
Richard W. Painter and Norman L. Eisen, The New York Times

At least for the moment, it seems that Robert Mueller, the special counsel, may keep his job. President Trump declared this week that he does not currently intend to fire him - a concession, perhaps, to the overwhelming public opposition to such a move.

The stench of Trump's self-dealing
Joe Scarborough, The Washington Post

The political system is rigged for the richest insiders in America. When we talk about the insider, who are we talking about?

Research Reports and Polling

New Year, Same Priorities: The Public's Agenda for 2018
The Associated Press and National Opinion Research Center

Health care, taxes, immigration, the environment, and education top a long and diverse list of the American public's policy priorities for the coming year. The public would like to see Washington expend considerable effort dealing with their top concerns for the country.



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From: State Legislators' Article V Caucus
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 8:29 AM
To: Rep93
Subject: America's Next Priority: Reducing Federal Debt

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STATE LEGISLATORS
ARTICLE V
CAUCUS

Newsletter - Edition 60 January 2018

Providing Article V / Federalism News and Scholarly Resources Since 2013

This month...

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- **Bipartisan Report Authors Underscore Need for Debt Control**
- **Heritage Foundation Gets a New President**
- **Iowa State Rep Calls for a Convention of States**
- **Coburn: No One is Working on National Debt Reduction**

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- **New Amendment-Seeking Group Takes Aim at Citizens United**
- **Writer Says Tea Party Must Now Focus on Spending Restraint**
- **Should Article V Itself be Amended?**
- **NewsMax Finally Publishes Brief Acknowledgement of Article V**

- **Writer's Wish: 'Stop Bankrupting My Children's Future'**
- **US Term Limits Proposal Gains Support Going Into 2018**

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Cuccinelli Gave Powerful Speech at ALEC Conference –

Former Virginia State Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli was the keynote speaker at a BBA Task Force-sponsored breakfast during the recent ALEC States and Nation Policy Summit in Nashville, TN. He described his presentation as *"unique from any other that (he) gives."* He said, *"I have never given one like it."* Then he spent 25 minutes underscoring the facts that support a quote from Erskine-Bowles... *"We face the most predictable economic crisis in history."*

Cuccinelli's powerful graphics-supported presentation went on to underscore the truth of Bowles prediction, *"if we do not change course."* He talked about *"the consequences of failure"... "it's simple math".... noting "We are spending about \$1.40 for every \$1 we take in,"* and, *"A one percent increase in interest rates equals \$200 billion ... which alone would almost double our interest payment per year,"* and, *"At the end of 2021 about \$6 trillion of our \$20 trillion debt will come due... in addition to our then existing budget."* He stressed that *"A balanced budget amendment has to come from the states."*

Although the sound quality is not what one would wish, Cuccinelli's full presentation can be seen [HERE](#).

Bipartisan Report Authors Underscore Need for Debt Control –

About the same time as Cuccinelli's speech, the **Washington Post** carried an op-ed authored by Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles entitled ***A moment of truth for our country's financial future***.

They pointed out the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform that they co-chaired issued its bipartisan warnings and recommendations seven years ago... when the national debt was \$7 trillion smaller. "Sadly" they said, *"deficit denial is not only back but also stronger than ever"*... and, *"debt is the highest it has ever been other than around World War II."*

While their piece was primarily a critique of the since-passed tax reform bill, they stressed, *"Bringing our debt under control will require reforming and slowing the growth of health and retirement entitlements."* *"This is the moment of truth for lawmakers who share our concern about our nation's fiscal future."* Read their op-ed [HERE](#).

Heritage Foundation Gets a New President –

The **Heritage Foundation** has announced that Kay James will become its new President as of this month. Ms. James brings with her a wealth of experience and leadership background.

From the standpoint of this publication, the only question is whether or not she will lead the widely respected organization to recognize that the Constitution it vigorously supports also includes a tool that can bring about many of the changes Heritage espouses... the state-led option for proposing Constitutional amendments set forth in Article V

Back in 1988, during an earlier effort to convene an Article V convention to propose a BBA-focused Constitutional amendment, Heritage produced a **Backgrounder** (position paper #637) that concluded, *"Given the numerous safeguards built into the convention method of amendment, fears that use of this method would endanger the Constitution are unfounded. In fact, the convention method actually may be the safer method of amendment. A convention is subject to many constraints, while Congress may propose an amendment to the states at any time, with almost no limits on the subject matter of those amendments."*

The 1988 position paper goes on to say, *"[T]he convention clause of Article V is an integral and necessary part of the constitutional system of checks and balances. Americans and their representatives in state legislatures and in Congress should not allow misinformation to divert them from employing this wisely crafted provision. When Congress fails to propose needed amendments to the Constitution, policy makers should not hesitate to put it to use."*

Yet, while Heritage has often supported a balanced budget provision in the Constitution, it has never taken a position supportive of an Article V convention

to make that happen. Leadership of the influential organization has continued to believe that Congress will propose such an amendment to constrain itself.

As recently as August 2011 outgoing Heritage President Edwin Feulner wrote, *"Until Congress is required by the Constitution to balance the budget (as almost all states are required to do) there will never be a true budget reform in Washington."* Unfortunately, under his leadership Heritage has refused to acknowledge, and encourage use of the provisions in Article V to accomplish that end.

Meanwhile, former US Senator Jim DeMint, who also served as President of Heritage for some time, has gone on to invest his leadership skills in promoting the use of Article V through the Convention of States Project (CoSP). And, Stephen Moore, the Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Project for Economic Growth at Heritage, has realized that Article V holds the hope for the balanced budget Constitutional provision that America needs.

"I was at first not a big fan of a balanced budget amendment," says Moore, *"and I have to confess that I believed the critics who said we just need to show some backbone and courage; we don't need to mess with the Constitution. But neither party has shown the courage or backbone to do anything about federal spending and borrowing. They won't, and the institution is inherently incapable of doing so."* He is now a strong advocate of using a state-led Article V convention to obtain a balanced budget amendment.

With Ms. James now leading Heritage, it is hoped that organization will finally

use its influence to employ the hitherto unused powers of Article V. Read the entire 1988 Heritage position paper on the validity of using Article V [HERE](#).

See Stephen Moore's BBA-related testimony before the US Senate Judiciary Committee [HERE](#).

Iowa State Rep Calls for a Convention of States –

In late November the **Dickinson County** (Iowa) **News** carried a piece wherein Iowa State Rep John Wills wrote about why there is a swamp in Washington, DC.

After reviewing the issues he concluded, “[W]e need to call for a convention of states that will bring our states together once again in a semblance of federalism to discuss how to reign in an out of control federal system and bring the power back to you —the voter. Remember: the government was meant to be controlled by the people, not the other way around.”

Read Rep. Wills piece [HERE](#).

Coburn: No One is Working on National Debt Reduction –

During December former Oklahoma US Senator Tom Coburn visited the **Tulsa World** where he said, *“No one is working on the things that are really important.”*

Dr. Coburn made it clear that what is really important to this country continues to be debt... not just the more than \$20 trillion in accumulated federal operating debt, but also the tens of trillions more in obligations like Social Security and Medicare.

"Name a country that has survived the debt burden we have," Coburn said. "You can't. There aren't any."

Coburn's book, *Smashing the D.C. Monopoly*, is his argument for a convention of the states. It is directed largely at fellow conservatives, many of whom oppose an Article V convention as a potential Pandora's box. Coburn describes at great length why he believes this is an unfounded worry, and why he believes a convention is imperative.

Coburn serves as spokesman for and advisor to the Convention of States Project ([CoSP](#)). His interview with the Tulsa World can be read [HERE](#).

New Amendment-Seeking Group Takes Aim at Citizens United –

A group known as **American Promise** has launched a new campaign to convince Congress to propose a Constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. It claims to have begun an *"18-month-long deliberative project to write and vet the 28th amendment to the US Constitution."*

Over the past few years a group known as **Wolf-PAC** has been pursuing an

Article V convention of states to reach similar goals. American Promise does not seem to have any interest in the state-led approach to overturning the 8-year-old Citizens United decision. They appear convinced that they can get 2/3 of both houses of Congress to vote for their proposed amendment. Their list of supporters includes former US Senator Alan Simpson, US Senator Tom Udall, Congressman Jim McGovern, Harvard Professor Lawrence Lessig and others.

The December 4 press release announcing the new campaign can be read [HERE](#). More information about American Promise is available [HERE](#)... and about Wolf-PAC is available [HERE](#).

Writer Says Tea Party Must Now Focus on Spending Restraint –

During December **The Libertarian Republic.com** published an op-ed by Gary Doan entitled ***“The Next Evolution of the TEA Party Must Be a SEA Party”***.

Doan summarizes the history of the Tea Party movement and says, *“[N]early a decade to the day after their emergence, they arguably have their first legislative victory. Their laser-like focus on taxes has made the first major legislation of Trump’s term to pass both houses tax reform.”* He goes on to say, *“[T]he original aim was to simplify the tax code and lower rates overall, and that’s exactly what the bill appears to do. Such a bill, regardless of any warts, represents the largest step towards what has always unified the TEA Party, and it would not have existed without them.”*

Sloan believes the Tea Party now needs to become the *“SEA Party,”* with an

emphasis on reducing governmental spending. He points out that *“debt is merely a tax on future generations”* and suggests that *“Any cuts to direct taxes without accompanying spending cuts merely raises the tax rates of indirect taxation.”*

He says, *“To the extent that self-styled tea party politicians are fiscal conservatives, it seems obvious to me that since significant tax reform is accomplished, spending reform must follow. Deficits and debt are not fiscally conservative policies.”*

After lauding the potential benefits of a Constitutional balanced budget amendment Sloan concludes by saying, *“In the wake of the victory of significant tax reform, this is the next battlefield for fiscal conservatives, the next big ticket item that accomplishes more than nibbling around the edges with some minor tweaks. For fiscal conservatives to move forward, they need to evolve past the TEA Party and become a SEA Party, or suffer the same fate of stagnation and co-option by a Republican party unconcerned with economics as their predecessors.”*

Read Sloan's entire piece [HERE](#).

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Should Article V Itself be Amended? –

James W. Lucas, an attorney in New York City, has written an important, thoughtful Article V-related piece that was published December 8 at **National Review.com**. Headlined ***The Supreme Court verses the Constitution***,

Lucas starts by saying, *"Through judicial amendment, the Supreme Court has made Article V of the Constitution an afterthought."*² Then he asks, *"Can we restore the Framers' vision?"*

Lucas says, *"[W]e have been hearing much about the two contending approaches to the Constitution. These are often referred to as 'originalism' and 'living constitutionalism,' but these terms obscure the underlying issue. What is at stake, at least in the constitutional context, is how our Constitution should be changed."* He suggests that Supreme Court decisions often *"constitute de facto amendment of the Constitution."*

He asks, *"How is it that the oldest written constitution in the world, of one of the oldest democratic republics in the world, can be changed with no participation by the people, through the decree of five unelected and unaccountable judges?"* Then he concludes, *"Today Article V is perhaps the most neglected part of our Constitution."*³

"If judges are to be persuaded not to change the Constitution on their own," says Lucas, *"Article V must be reformed in order to make it a plausible alternative to judicial amendment. The Framers' solution was the democratic, deliberative process set out in Article V, not the fiat of the Supreme Court."*

Mr. Lucas says Article V... itself... should be amended. *"A few simple adjustments could do much to return the ultimate power of constitutional change to the people."* In his National Review article he writes extensively about why and in what ways Article V should be changed. He has even written

a separate book on the topic: ***Are We The People***, available [HERE](#).

Read Mr. Lucas' entire National Review article [HERE](#).

NewsMax Finally Publishes Brief Acknowledgement of Article V

– During December the conservative **NewsMax.com** carried a report that there have been 742 proposals to amend the US Constitution since 1999. The article was written by political analyst/author/speaker Scott Rasmussen.

He reports that the vast majority of those proposals died in Congressional committees. He says only 20 times over those years was a potential amendment even voted on by the full House or Senate.

After noting that *"The requirements to amend the U.S. Constitution are challenging,"* Rasmussen offers a cursory (and unfortunately incomplete) reference to the Article V state convention option for proposing amendments. Read his piece [HERE](#).

Writer's Wish: 'Stop Bankrupting My Children's Future' –

During December **RealClearPolitics.com** published a commentary written by Tim Kane of the Hoover Institution. It dealt mostly with the misleading "Winners and Losers" approach to evaluating federal tax bills. Kane wrote some weeks before Congress approved its 2017 Tax Cut and Reform Bill.

Mr. Kane addressed the possibility that the national debt might increase by up to \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years as a result of the bill. He says, "Yes, *deficits are a problem. So is slow growth. As much as I wish Washington would stop bankrupting my children's future, I appreciate that tax reform is not where the debt will be fixed. The spending side of the federal ledger is what threatens us. Once upon a time, a moral constraint among legislators held spending in check, but it has washed away. Sadly, there is no statutory constraint.*"

Kane concluded his op-ed by saying, "*To save the future, America needs a balanced budget amendment.*" Read his piece [HERE](#).

US Term Limits Proposal Gains Support Going Into 2018 –

Vermont State Rep. Robert Helm has announced that he will sponsor the **US Term Limits (USTL)** resolution in Vermont this next session. In making his announcement, Rep. Helm said, "*It's important because of what you see in Washington now. Stalemates, shutdown and prejudice; and I think refreshing Congress every so often will eliminate some of that.*"

Meanwhile Tennessee State Senator Mark Green announced that he has signed the Article V Term Limits Convention Pledge, joining a growing number of state lawmakers nationwide who have also made the commitment. Green's pledge says, "*I pledge that as a member of the state legislature, I will support and vote for the resolution applying for an Article V convention for the limited purpose of proposing term limits on Congress.*"

Green, currently running for a seat in the US House, has also signed the USTL pledge to support a Congressionally-introduced Constitutional amendment requiring term limits for Congress.

According to USTL, the most recent nationwide Gallup poll on term limits shows the issue enjoys wide bipartisan support. The results suggest that 75% of Americans support congressional term limits. Gallup's analysis states, *"Republicans and Independents are slightly more likely than Democrats to favor term limits; nevertheless, the vast majority of all party groups agree on the issue. Further, Gallup finds no generational differences in support for the proposal."*

Act 2 Launches New Web Site --

A new web site has been opened to promote **The Act 2 Reforms... a Blueprint to Rejuvenate America**. This is a Colorado-based movement that is promoting five Constitutional amendments. The attractive and detail-packed site explains the national problems Act 2 seeks to address, and offers specific, actionable ideas.

Frank W. Keeney and his wife Carol are the founders of Act 2. Find and explore their new web site [HERE](#).

Who Said It?

= 2America is, and will be, divided into several sovereign states, each possessing every power proper for governing within its own limits for its own purposes, and also for acting as a member of the union."

He wrote that any states that allowed the federal government to interfere in their sovereign jurisdiction would be guilty of a breach of trust, for the *"trustees or servants of the several states"* were obliged to protect the authority citizens had placed in them. If state officials lose ground to the federal government, Dickinson maintained, ***"It will be their own faults."***

John Dickinson (writing under the pseudonym, "Fabius"). In early 1788 Dickinson perceived that momentum to ratify the new Constitution was slowing. He composed 9 letters that were published in newspapers, were well-received, and were widely reprinted. The above quotes are from those letters.

This Newsletter is produced by
Colorado State Senator Kevin Lundberg (senatorlundberg@gmail.com)
and New Mexico State Representative Yvette Herrell (yherrell@yahoo.com)
Newsletter Editor - Stuart MacPhail (CitizenAmend@aol.com)

Official Web Site: www.ArticleVCaucus.com

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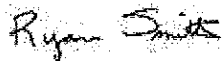
From: Rep93
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 4:28 PM
To: 'suzzanneharris@earthlink.net'
Subject: RE: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Dear Cindy,

Thank you for reaching out. I am aware of the significance of these right-to-work bills and how important they are to my constituents. House bills 53 and 113 are currently in committee, where we will hear from both sides and gather as much information as possible before coming to a conclusion. I will work with committee members to ensure our decision reflects our voter's opinions while safeguarding fair labor laws and standards for our workers.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns with my office. Please feel free to reach out again on any topic of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Ryan Smith
State Representative, District 93

From: Cindy Harris [mailto:suzzanneharris@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Rep93 <Rep93@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers' office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

These six proposals would effectively undo labor law that has helped serve as a catalyst to create Ohio's middle class.

These proposals are nothing but a an attempt bu out-of-state groups like ALEC to silence workers at the workplace and slash wages and benefits at a time when they have been stagnant for far too long.

Neither employers nor workers and union members like myself are asking for these union-busting bills to be enacted.

Working people overwhelmingly rejected these types of attacks in 2011 when they used the citizens' veto and repealed Senate Bill 5. Ohioans strongly believe that it is past time to put the ugliness and spitefulness behind us and work to find common ground with all political parties, business and labor, on different ways to grow our economy from the middle out and raise wages for all.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Cindy Harris

suzzanneharris@earthlink.net

1451 wildwood rd

Bidwell, Ohio Oh

From: Rep93

Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 4:28 PM

To: 'bcaldwell53@msn.com'


Subject: RE: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Dear Bess,

Thank you for reaching out. I am aware of the significance of these right-to-work bills and how important they are to my constituents. House bills 53 and 113 are currently in committee, where we will hear from both sides and gather as much information as possible before coming to a conclusion. I will work with committee members to ensure our decision reflects our voter's opinions while safeguarding fair labor laws and standards for our workers.

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Sincerely,



Ryan Smith

State Representative, District 93

From: Bess Caldwell [mailto:bcaldwell53@msn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:01 PM

To: Rep93 <Rep93@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Bess Caldwell

bcaldwell53@msn.com

2 Grady Lane

Wellston , Ohio 45692

From: Rep93
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 4:29 PM
To: 'brand0ns.messy@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Dear Brandon,

Thank you for reaching out. I am aware of the significance of these right-to-work bills and how important they are to my constituents. House bills 53 and 113 are currently in committee, where we will hear from both sides and gather as much information as possible before coming to a conclusion. I will work with committee members to ensure our decision reflects our voter's opinions while safeguarding fair labor laws and standards for our workers.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns with my office. Please feel free to reach out again on any topic of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Ryan Smith
State Representative, District 93

From: Brandon Delong [mailto:info@actionnetwork.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:03 PM
To: Rep93 <Rep93@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers' office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Brandon Delong

brand0ns.messy@yahoo.com

3543 county road 19

Kitts hill, Ohio 45645

From: Rep93

Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 4:29 PM

To: 'lewisdbrian1978@gmail.com'

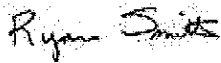
Subject: RE: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for reaching-out. I am aware of the significance of these right-to-work bills and how important they are to my constituents. House bills 53 and 113 are currently in committee, where we will hear from both sides and gather as much information as possible before coming to a conclusion. I will work with committee members to ensure our decision reflects our voter's opinions while safeguarding fair labor laws and standards for our workers.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns with my office. Please feel free to reach out again on any topic of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Ryan Smith

State Representative, District 93

From: Daniel Lewis [mailto:info@actionnetwork.org]

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:04 PM

To: Rep93 <Rep93@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers' office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

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These proposals are nothing but a an attempt bu out-of-state groups like ALEC to silence workers at the workplace and slash wages and benefits at a time when they have been stagnant for far too long.

Neither employers nor workers and union members like myself are asking for these union-busting bills to be enacted.

Working people overwhelmingly rejected these types of attacks in 2011 when they used the citizens' veto and repealed Senate Bill 5. Ohioans strongly believe that it is past time to put the ugliness and spitefulness behind us and work to find common ground with all political parties, business and labor, on different ways to grow our economy from the middle out and raise wages for all.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Daniel Lewis
lewisdbrian1978@gmail.com
316 N New Jersey Ave
Wellston ohio , Ohio 45692

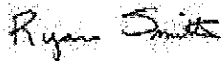
From: Rep93
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 4:30 PM
To: 'rjm7o@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Dear Robert,

Thank you for reaching out. I am aware of the significance of these right-to-work bills and how important they are to my constituents. House bills 53 and 113 are currently in committee, where we will hear from both sides and gather as much information as possible before coming to a conclusion. I will work with committee members to ensure our decision reflects our voter's opinions while safeguarding fair labor laws and standards for our workers.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns with my office. Please feel free to reach out again on any topic of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Ryan Smith
State Representative, District 93

From: Robert Mitchell [mailto:info@actionnetwork.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Rep93 <Rep93@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Ryan Smith,

From: Building Blocks for Liberty

Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 4:38 PM

To: Rep93

Subject: Hamilton County, You Asked For It, You Got It, Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII !

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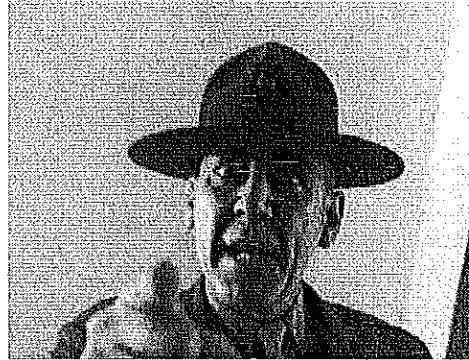
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Learn what the Founders intended our federal government to really be
versus what it has become and learn how we need to fix it !



Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII Is Being Held In Hamilton County!



Building Blocks for Liberty presents their 33rd Constitution Boot Camp at the EmpowerU studio with lunch provided by American's for Prosperity.

You have been asking for us to hold a Boot Camp in Hamilton county so we are holding number 33 in Springdale on June 17th, THEN we are holding number 34 in Sycamore Township on July 22nd !

The Boot Camp is a six-hour workshop, with a break for lunch, which outlines the key concepts and ideas of the Constitution in simple, easy to understand terms. It is appropriate for teenage students and older.

Topics to be covered include:

- How did the Founders view government?
- What are Natural Law and Natural Rights?
- What is the difference between a Republic and a Democracy?

- How do you use the Federalist Papers to understand the U.S. Constitution?
- What is Nullification?

Boot Camp participants receive a binder with the presentation, 2 handbooks, The Federalist Papers and The Handbook For We the People, plus a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution and LUNCH !

All for a donation of just \$25 ! Additional family members can attend for just \$5 each. We have a limited number of scholarships available for Students.

These Constitution Boot Camps equip people with the tools and resources necessary to enable them to be confident in their abilities to understand and apply the U.S. Constitution to all facets of government.

Who should attend our Boot Camp? Senior Citizens, Home School Students, Teachers, Law Enforcement Officials, Government Officials and anyone who just wants a refresher on the Constitution!

Lunch will be provided by
Americans for Prosperity!



**AMERICANS FOR
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Who is Building Blocks for Liberty?

Building Blocks for Liberty is an Ohio registered non-profit educational organization dedicated to the preservation of the U.S. Constitution by teaching others the importance of this historical document that governs our nation.

Building Blocks for Liberty is the brainchild of Marines Jim Lewis and John Hindery.



Jim Lewis (left) and John Hindery (right)

In the United States Marine Corp, Jim and John spent four years defending the United States and the Constitution they took an oath to uphold and protect. As American citizens, they became increasingly alarmed as they watched in astonishment the endless attacks on the liberties of Americans by an overreaching government. Determined to stop the daily barrage of misinformation, the two men decided to combine their love of history with a desire to educate the public the truth about the Constitution, and developed the unique teaching partnership now known as Building Blocks for Liberty.

The first Constitution class began in 2011 as a 10 week course and met once-a-week. Due to the time commitment required, many who wanted to attend could not. However, people were able to attend a more compact, one-day version of this popular course, so, in 2013; the first "Boot Camp" was born.

In July of 2014, Building Blocks for Liberty (BBFL) was incorporated to be an organizational umbrella. Its mission is to educate people about the truth of the Constitution

To date, BBFL has taught over 30 Constitution Boot Camps in southern Ohio, including Columbus, Xenia and Dayton, SE Indiana and Northern Kentucky. Using materials provided by BBFL, this class is now being taught as far away as Texas.

BBFL's goal is to start an online class to reach an

even broader audience, allowing easy access to the presentation where individuals can study it one module at a time and complete the class at their own pace. BBFL is currently working to make this study available on DVDs.

Here are the logistics for **CBC XXXIII** :

Location: EmpowerU Studio

**Address: 225 Northland Blvd, Springdale, OH,
45246**

Date: SATURDAY, June 17, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM to 4 PM

NOTE there is a time change for this class !

To get directions go here:

Directions To Boot Camp

To Register For This Class

For information go to **Constitution Boot Camp
XXXIII**

BBFL

For more information on
Building Blocks for Liberty,
click on the button below !



**BBFL
Website**

"Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty."

~Thomas Jefferson

**BBFL | jim@buildingblocksforliberty.org |
www.buildingblocksforliberty.org**

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Building Blocks for Liberty, 6969 FORESTVIEW CT, West Chester, OH 45069

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From: Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 4:42 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: The Leaflet - What States Can Learn from Arkansas' Medicaid Reforms

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the leaflet

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What States Can Learn from Arkansas' Medicaid Reforms

To date, 32 states have expanded their Medicaid programs to cover those with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), a result of the Medicaid expansion policies implemented by the much-debated Affordable Care Act (ACA). While many states controlled by Democrats simply expanded their existing programs, many Republican-controlled states were much slower to act, as they looked for ways to reform in a way that might appeal to their more-conservative electorates. The most notable example of this is Arkansas, which has been held up by many Medicaid-expansion proponents as a Republican model for expansion.

According to a *Research & Commentary* by Heartland Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans, "Arkansas is the originator of the private-option model that many states used to expand their Medicaid programs. With its Medicaid expansion failing to contain rapidly increasing costs, Arkansas will soon become the first state to enact reforms significantly scaling back Medicaid expansion under the ACA."

The Arkansas "premium assistance" model passed in 2013, eventually adding 250,000 recipients to its Medicaid rolls. The state's program enabled the newly eligible to purchase subsidized insurance on the Obamacare health insurance exchange. However, the ballooning costs associated with the Arkansas model led lawmakers in the state to look for ways of reining the program back in.

A report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) found the average cost of ACA's Medicaid expansion enrollees was nearly 50 percent higher in fiscal year 2015 than

previously projected. In 2015, Medicaid-expansion enrollees cost an average of \$6,366, not the projected \$4,281.

According to Americans for Prosperity, a vocal proponent of the recently approved reforms to the model, "Arkansas will become the first state to enact reforms significantly scaling back Medicaid expansion under Obamacare. The reforms recently-passed by state lawmakers decrease eligibility for the program from 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) down to 100 percent FPL. This reform is estimated to reduce state Medicaid rolls by 60,000 people, or approximately 20 percent of Medicaid expansion enrollment in the state - which has ballooned far beyond what the state ever projected and subsequently added tens of millions of dollars in cost."

The new law also mandates the state seek a waiver from the federal government to allow Arkansas to impose work requirements for able-bodied individuals seeking to enroll. According to Glans, "The new work requirements that would be included with the rollback use methods that proved to be very effective when they were included in the welfare reforms of the 1990s; in a study examining poverty after the 1990's welfare reforms, the Manhattan Institute found the inclusion of work requirements led to substantial reductions in poverty nationwide."

With the fate of the ACA still in doubt and the increased costs associated with Medicaid expansion (and declining federal match), more expansion states will likely have to apply for waivers to cut costs.

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States that have not yet expanded Medicaid would be best served to apply for waivers and offer solutions to help better serve existing enrollees before even considering expansion. Expansion states should look to Arkansas' new reforms as a warning, and possibly a model, for fixing many of the problems created by expansion.

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WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Health Care

Research & Commentary: State High-Risk Pools for Health Insurance

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines high-risk health care pools and the important role they could play after a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. "Embracing high-risk pools and encouraging them to thrive would allow states to abandon guaranteed issue and provide health insurance to a vulnerable population while helping to keep all health care insurance prices down. State legislators should consider implementing or expanding high-risk pools to protect their citizens and encourage a well-functioning health insurance market," Glans wrote. [Read more](#)

Energy & Environment



Research & Commentary: Study Says Methane in North Texas Wells Is Naturally Occurring, Not the Result of Hydraulic Fracturing

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about a new study published in the journal *Groundwater*, in which researchers at the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Michigan found the methane in wells in North Texas is most likely naturally occurring and not the cause of hydraulic fracturing. The researchers analyzed the methane concentrations of 509 samples taken from more than 450 wells in 12 separate counties across the Barnett Shale, with special attention given to Hood and Parker Counties. The region became a locus in the hydraulic fracturing debate when a local landowner was filmed lighting his hose on fire in a scene appearing in the agitprop documentary *Gasland Part II*. "We show," the study states, "that the overall body of evidence, that is, sampling results aided by earlier observations, strongly suggests a natural origin for the dissolved methane in the Parker-Hood cluster." [Read more](#)

Budget & Tax

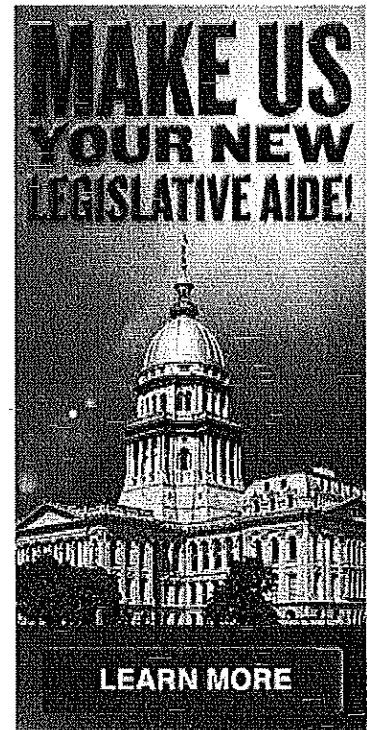
Research & Commentary: Solution for Illinois Pension Crisis Is Closer than You Think

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines a proposed pension reform plan in Illinois that relies on a model already existing in the state. It would implement a defined-contribution plan for new state workers. "This proposal is a first step toward substantive reforms that can cut costs and manage future pension liabilities while protecting existing benefits for public employees. Defined-contribution plans, which are used extensively in the private sector, would allow the state to lower its pension costs and give employees greater control over their retirement plans," Glans wrote. [Read more](#)

Education

Research & Commentary: North Carolina Should Establish Special-Needs ESA

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about a state budget bill currently making its way through the North Carolina Senate that would provide funding for a limited education savings account (ESA) program. The Personal Education Savings Accounts Program would be available to students with disabilities, children in foster care, and to children who have a parent who is on active duty in the military. If passed, the program would begin in the 2018-19 fiscal year. Under the program, ESAs could be used to pay for tuition and fees at private and parochial schools. ESA funds could also cover the costs of textbooks, tutoring services,



POLICY NEWSPAPER



The June issue of *Environment & Climate News* offers extensive wrap-up coverage of The Heartland Institute's Twelfth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-12). More than a dozen articles cover the panels and keynote addresses delivered during the conference, held March 23–24 in Washington, DC. The conference addressed a wide range of topics, including the need to [reset U.S. climate policy](#), the

educational therapies, and transportation. Additionally, the ESAs could be used to pay for the fees required to take national standardized achievement tests, such as the SAT and ACT. The maximum scholarship amount for an eligible student would be \$9,000, and all leftover funds could be rolled over for use in the following school year. However, the program is only budgeted for a \$1 million appropriation, which means only 111 students could be funded if each is given the maximum scholarship allotment. [Read more](#)

From Our Free-Market Friends

[Addressing Concerns with Congestion Pricing](#)

In a paper by Tracy C. Miller, Michael Wilt, Thomas Savidge, and Ted Bolema, produced by the Mercatus Center, the authors rebut some of the common concerns expressed about congestion pricing. According to the paper, traffic congestion is an issue that has worsened over time. Governments have made unsuccessful attempts to alleviate congestion. Congestion pricing (also called variable tolls) can solve the problem by raising tolls during peak driving times, encouraging drivers to drive at non-peak times. The Mercatus Center's research addresses privacy and equity concerns with congestion pricing and concludes that it may be an effective policy solution.

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[relationship between fossil fuels and world peace, sustainability, and the dangers of "politically correct" science.](#)

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[Health Care News](#)

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Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004



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Agenda

Do not miss this great workshop that could have a positive impact in your state!

Expanding Access to Dental Care in Medicaid through Market-Based Solutions

"With the opportunity for states to transition to alternative Medicaid financing arrangements like block grants, determining market-based reforms for public programs has never been more important. Join health care experts as they discuss best practices to address access to dental care in Medicaid programs, while offering solutions for state policymakers to consider implementing in their state."

In case you missed it...

Join Governor Matt Bevin (KY), the Honorable Jim DeMint, Mr. Steve Forbes and more at the ALEC Annual Meeting!

Please stay tuned for Annual Meeting agenda updates and more speaker announcements coming soon!

Don't forget to make your hotel reservation!

Make your reservation at the Hyatt Regency in Denver today! The Hyatt Regency will serve as the host hotel for the ALEC Annual Meeting and we are offering a highly discounted rate of \$205/per night.

**Rooms are going quick!
Reservation deadline is June 26**

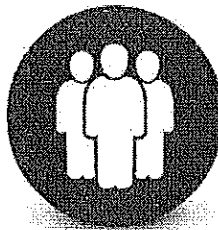
Book Today!



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DENVER

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Looking to Exhibit?



Don't miss out on an excellent opportunity to exhibit at the 44th ALEC Annual Meeting and promote your organization to both the public and private sectors in Denver! The Exhibit Hall at the ALEC Annual Meeting is a popular networking hub for state legislators and policy experts, making exhibiting an effective medium to get your message out to more than 1,000 policy makers and grow your network. For more information, please contact [Wes Fisher](#).

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Questions? Please contact our [Events Team](#) or visit our [website](#).

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Courtney Cook
ALEC
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202



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From: Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team

Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2017 10:42 AM

To: Rep93

Subject: The Leaflet - Appalachian Communities Could Benefit Significantly from Hydraulic Fracturing

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the leaflet

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Appalachian Communities Could Benefit Significantly from Hydraulic Fracturing

According to a report released in May 2017 by the American Chemistry Council (ACC), the Appalachian regions of Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia is on its way to becoming a petrochemical and plastic-resin manufacturing hub. ACC projects the region will experience a \$35 billion increase in investment spending and the addition of 100,000 permanent jobs by 2025. All this is due to the hydraulic fracturing, commonly called "fracking," revolution, which has made the region's massive shale gas deposits available for development.

Of the 100,000 new jobs that are projected, 25,000 are in "chemical and plastic products" manufacturing, 43,000 in "supplier industries," and another 32,000 are in "payroll-induced" jobs in communities where workers spend their wages." The study also estimates federal, state, and local tax revenues would increase by \$2.9 billion over the same period.

"The Appalachian region has distinct benefits that could make it a major petrochemical and plastic resin-producing zone," said ACC President and CEO Cal Dooley in a press release accompanying the study. One of these benefits being its "proximity to a world-class supply of raw materials from the Marcellus/Utica and Rogersville shale formations."

A paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), also released in May 2017, has found "the fracking boom of the post 2005 period led to sizable improvements in the earnings potential of non-college educated men in counties located over geological shale plays."

Specifically, \$1,000 per capita of fracking production causes a 6 percent increase in average earnings for males employed outside of the oil and natural-gas industries, including a 2.9 percent increase for non-college-educated men, as well as a 2 percent increase in the total number of jobs for both college-educated and non-college-educated men.

The NBER report reinforces the findings made by researchers from the University of Chicago, Princeton University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2016. In their study, communities near shale basins were examined, and the researchers found hydraulic-fracturing activity brought \$1,300 to \$1,900 in annual benefits to local households, including “a 7 percent increase in average income, driven by rises in wages and royalty payments, a 10 percent increase in employment, and a 6 percent increase in housing prices.”

According to Heartland Policy Analyst Tim Benson’s recent *Research & Commentary* on hydraulic fracturing, the fracking process has transformed the energy outlook of the United States over the past decade, and the rise of shale gas as a replacement for coal has been primarily responsible for the “United States now enjoying its lowest level of carbon-dioxide emissions since 1989. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), fracking now accounts for 51 percent of all U.S. crude oil production. EIA also estimates the continuing switch of electricity-generation fuels to fracking-produced natural gas is responsible for 63 percent of the drop in U.S. energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions over the past decade.” = 2

Of course, the benefits of fracking, including those projected by ACC in its study, can only exist if the fracking industry is protected from misguided and shortsighted attempts to ban it or overregulate it out of existence - attempts based completely on unscientific claims about fracking’s alleged environmental dangers.

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WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Budget & Tax

Research & Commentary: Michigan Considers Moving to 401(k)s for Teachers

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines a proposed pension reform plan in Michigan that would move all new teachers to a 401(k)-style defined-contribution plan. “Michigan’s effort to move state workers into a defined-contribution pension plan is an important step toward solidifying the state’s financial future. Defined-contribution plans give retirees direct control over retirement and make it possible for them to move in and out of the private sector without losing their accrued pension benefits. This allows governments to budget more accurately, because benefits are paid directly to employees and are firmly set each year,” wrote Glans. Read more

Education

Research & Commentary: Special-Needs ESAs Would Be a Great First Step for Maine

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In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about a proposal in Maine that would establish an education savings account (ESA) program for students with special needs. Under the program, ESAs could be used to pay for tuition and fees at private and parochial schools, as well for textbooks, tutoring services by a certified teacher, online courses, educational therapies, and transportation costs. Additionally, ESAs could be used to cover the fees required to take national standardized achievement tests, such as the SAT and ACT. Benson writes that legislators should give serious consideration to what ESAs could mean for families with disabled children, as it would give more Maine families a greater opportunity to meet each child's unique education needs. [Read more](#)

Energy & Environment

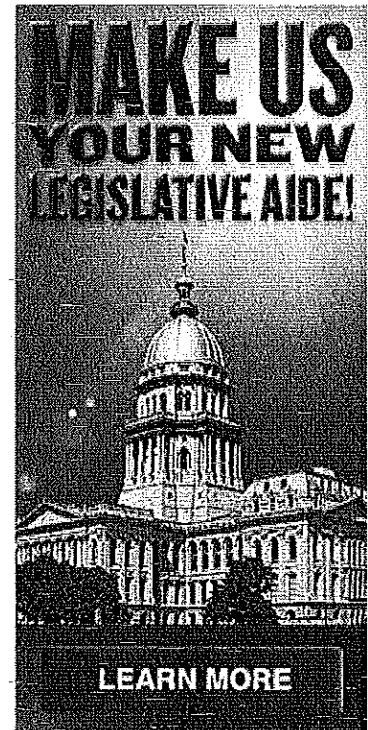
Research & Commentary: Peer-Reviewed Study Says Hydraulic Fracturing Not Responsible for Groundwater Contamination in West Virginia

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about a new peer-reviewed study led by researchers at Duke University that found hydraulic fracturing, commonly called "fracking," has not led to groundwater contamination in 112 drinking-water wells in Tyler and Hall Counties in northwestern West Virginia. Benson notes the existing peer-reviewed evidence, which this study adds to, shows hydraulic-fracturing processes do not have a systemic impact on groundwater. Benson writes since 2010, at least 18 of these studies have been produced, and they're reinforced by the Environmental Protection Agency's own \$29 million, six-year study of fracking's impact on groundwater sources, which failed to find any systemic impact caused by the 110,000 oil and natural gas wells that have been in use across the country since 2011. Benson notes drilling is currently being conducted in hundreds of locations in West Virginia in a safe and responsible manner, and federal, state, and local governments have tested thousands of sites nationwide for fracking-linked pollution of groundwater or drinking-water resources, as well as for air-quality issues. He argues there is no scientific justification for banning hydraulic fracturing or overregulating it out of existence. [Read more](#)

Health Care

Heartland Daily Podcast: Dr. Stryker, Dr. Bizier: Let Doctors and Patients, Not Insurers, Decide Treatment

In this edition of the *Heartland Daily Podcast*, two doctors describe an incident in which a government official without medical training relied on information from Wikipedia to let



POLICY NEWSPAPER



The June issue of *Environment & Climate News* offers extensive wrap-up coverage of The Heartland Institute's Twelfth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-12). More than a dozen articles cover the panels and keynote addresses delivered during the conference, held March 23–24 in Washington, DC. The conference addressed a wide range of topics, including the need to [reset U.S. climate policy](#), the

insurers deny a patient treatment recommended by her physicians. [Read more](#)

From Our Free-Market Friends

[1.8 Million Illinoisans are Dependent on Food Stamps](#)

In this report from the Illinois Policy Institute, Brendan Bakala analyzes data from the Illinois Department of Human Services. Bakala found the number of Illinois residents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly called "food stamps," increased by more than 15,000 from March 2016 to March 2017, while the number of recipients in Indiana decreased by more than 9 percent during the same period. Bakala argues Indiana's economic success comes from its pro-growth policies, including its right-to-work law.

[relationship between fossil fuels and world peace, sustainability, and the dangers of "politically correct" science.](#)

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From: Building Blocks for Liberty
Sent: Saturday, June 3, 2017 8:33 AM
To: Rep93
Subject: A Class Worth Taking, Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII !

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Learn what the Founders intended our federal government to really
be versus what it has become and learn how we need to fix it !





Constitution Boot Camp XXXIII Is Being Held At The EmpowerU Studios!

We have been looking for the proper venue to hold a class in Hamilton County and with the folks at EmpowerU stepping up, we have found it !

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For those who live on the Westside of Cincinnati, this will be a good opportunity to attend one of our classes. Kids, give your Dad a class **AND** you attend with him for his Father's Day present ! Sign up today !

Building Blocks for Liberty presents our **33rd** Constitution Boot Camp at the EmpowerU studio with lunch provided by American's for Prosperity.

The Boot Camp is a six-hour workshop, with a break for lunch, which outlines the key concepts and ideas of the Constitution in simple, easy to understand terms. It is appropriate for teenage students and older.

Topics to be covered include:

- How did the Founders view government?
- What are Natural Law and Natural Rights?
- What is the difference between a Republic and a Democracy?
- How do you use the Federalist Papers to understand the U.S. Constitution?
- What is Nullification?

Boot Camp participants receive a binder with the presentation, 2 handbooks, The Federalist Papers and The Handbook For We the People, plus a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution and LUNCH !

All for a donation of just \$25 ! Additional family members can attend for just \$5 each. We have a limited number of scholarships available for Students.

These Constitution Boot Camps equip people with the tools and resources necessary to enable them to be confident in their abilities to understand and apply the U.S. Constitution to all facets of government.

Who should attend our Boot Camp? Senior Citizens, Home School Students, Teachers, Law Enforcement Officials, Government Officials and anyone who just wants a refresher on the Constitution!

Lunch will be provided by
Americans for Prosperity!



**AMERICANS FOR
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OHIO

Here are the logistics for **CBC XXXIII** :

Location: EmpowerU Studio

**Address: 225 Northland Blvd, Springdale, OH,
45246**

Date: SATURDAY, June 17, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM to 4 PM

NOTE there is a time change for this class !

To get directions go here:

Directions To Boot Camp

To Register For This Class

For information go to **Constitution Boot Camp
XXXIII**

BBFL

For more information on
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**BBFL
Website**

"Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty."

~Thomas Jefferson

BBFL | jim@buildingblocksforliberty.org |
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Monday, June 5, 2017



TOP NEWS

Analysis

Trump's Paris Redo Caveat Leaves Experts Scratching Heads

President Donald Trump qualified his announcement that the United States will pull out of the Paris climate accord by expressing a willingness to seek a renegotiated deal or even forge a brand new one, but experts say there's no clear path to reworking the terms of the U.S. involvement and that the global community may be reluctant to engage. [Read more »](#)

Analysis

Trump Officials' Tax Signals Have Experts In Holding Pattern

Clients haven't given up on tax reform yet, but after a week of vague statements about what exactly the administration wants out of it, they are holding off major decisions until they can see what elements of tax reform get through Congress, experts say. [Read more »](#)

Trump Admin Takes Immigration Ban Fight To Supreme Court

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Greenberg Traurig
Gupta Wessler

The Trump administration has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the block of President Donald Trump's revised immigration ban, along with seeking stays of the injunctions at issue, claiming in its petition to the high court that the policy isn't a "Muslim ban." [Read more »](#)

GOP Dodd-Frank Rewrite Heads For House Vote

The U.S. House of Representatives will vote next week on a bill that would substantially roll back the financial regulations mandated by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, top Republican leaders said Friday. [Read more »](#)

Analysis

Straining Under Caseload, Fla. Federal Judges Hope For Help

After years of dealing with heavier-than-average caseloads, federal judges in Florida — and those who practice in their courts — are hopeful legislation introduced by the state's U.S. senators seeking 10 new judgeships will ease the burden of busy dockets. [Read more »](#)

Trump Says Wine Bar Suit Must Stay In Federal Court

President Donald Trump told a D.C. federal court on Thursday that an unfair competition suit brought by a wine bar located near his luxury hotel should remain in federal court because of the case's relation to his presidency. [Read more »](#)

BANKING & SECURITIES

Wachtell Partner Drops Out Of DOJ Leadership Consideration

The Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz LLP partner married to presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway has pulled himself out of the running for a U.S. Department of Justice job, saying he'll keep his role handling litigation tied to securities, mergers and acquisitions and antitrust matters. [Read more »](#)

Hunton & Williams
Husch Blackwell
Jones Day
Jung & Sisco
K&L Gates
Kirkland & Ellis
Klarquist Sparkman
Klasko Immigration Law Partners
Latham & Watkins
Maxey Wann
Mayer Brown
McDermott Will
Morgan Lewis
Morrison & Foerster
Motley Rice
Ober Kaler
Polsinelli
Reed Smith
Robins Kaplan
Sauer & Wagner
Schiff Hardin
Seyfarth Shaw
Skadden
Sullivan & Cromwell
Wachtell Lipton
Waller Lansden

COMPANIES

21st Century Fox Inc.
American Association for Justice
American Civil Liberties Union
American Health Care Association
American Immigration Council
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Autonomy Corp.
Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.
Center for Biological Diversity Inc.

SEC Chair Seeks Input On Investment Adviser Conduct Rules

Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton on Thursday called for public input on conduct standards governing investment advisers and broker-dealers, vowing to work with the U.S. Department of Labor as that cabinet agency implements its own fiduciary standard for retirement advisers. [Read more »](#)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

Judge Casts Out Enviros' Bull Trout Suit Against FWS

An Oregon federal judge on Friday agreed with a magistrate judge's recommendation to grant the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's bid to dismiss a complaint alleging that it hasn't done enough to protect the bull trout's cold-water habitat from global warming, rejecting objections from the environmental groups that filed the suit. [Read more »](#)

Challenges Combined To Revival Of Coal-Leasing Program

A Montana federal judge on Friday agreed to consolidate two cases challenging Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision in late March to lift the moratorium on the federal coal-leasing program imposed last year. [Read more »](#)

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

Health Hires: Epstein, Greenberg, McDermott, Polsinelli

Epstein Becker Green, Greenberg Traurig LLP and McDermott Will & Emery LLP have boosted their health care groups with attorneys from Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis LLP, Reed Smith LLP and DLA Piper, respectively, and Polsinelli PC has grown its intellectual property practice with four life sciences experts. [Read more »](#)

Chevron Corporation
Hudson City Bancorp Inc.
Humane Society of the United States
Ion Media Networks Inc.
Johnson & Johnson
M&T Bank Corporation
McDonald's Corporation
Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
National Association of Broadcasters
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Immigration Law Center
National Rifle Association of America
Natural Resources Defense Council
Russell Reynolds Associates Inc.
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.
Tribune Media Co.
Trump Organization Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United States Telecom Association
Univision Communications Inc.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Bureau of Land Management
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Congressional Budget Office
Congressional Research Service
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Energy Information Administration
Executive Office of the President
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation